

2014 RPMS EHR

As previously announced, the 2014 RPMS EHR was certified on August 22, 2014. Once beta testing was completed, a controlled release of the Suite was made available on September 26, 2014. Five areas, including nine hospitals and 22 clinics across Oklahoma, Bemidji, Albuquerque, Billings and Navajo, implemented the 2014 RPMS EHR during the September 27 weekend.

A list of facilities that have deployed the 2014 RPMS EHR Suite since then is available on the IHS web site at <http://www.ihs.gov/EHR/index.cfm?module=currentstatus> (note that this list is continually updated). Facilities should contact their area offices about scheduling the 2014 EHR upgrade.

To learn more about demonstrating MU, visit <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfuluse/>.

UPCOMING DATES

See below for some important dates in the EHR Incentive Program for both EHs and EPs. Be sure to plan accordingly.

- **Nov. 30, 2014:** Last day for EHs to register and attest to receive a Medicare incentive payment for FY 2014 (EHs participating in the **Medicaid** EHR Incentive Program need to refer to their [state deadlines](#) for attestation)
- **Nov. 30, 2014:** Hardship Exception Applications due (see related article)
- **Dec. 31, 2014:** Reporting year ends for EPs
- **January 1, 2014:** Reporting period begins for EPs for CY 2015 (note that 2014 was the last year EPs could begin the Medicare program)
- **February 28, 2015:** Last day for EPs to register and attest to receive a Medicare incentive payment for CY 2014

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR HARDSHIP EXCEPTION APPLICATIONS

Any EP or EH who is **eligible** to participate in the Medicare CMS EHR Incentive program and who bills Medicare Part B on the Physician Fee Schedule is subject to a 2015 Medicare adjustment. Because this adjustment is based on a two-year look-back period, EPs and EHs who successfully demonstrated MU with either Medicare or Medicaid in 2013 are exempt from the 2015 Medicare adjustment. However, **Medicare EPs and EHs who did not demonstrate MU in CY 2013 will be subject to a payment adjustment in CY 2015.** (Keep in mind that A/I/U does not count as demonstrating MU.)

Medicare EPs and EHs who participated in the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program **for the first time** in 2014 may apply for a vendor hardship exception to avoid this 2015 payment adjustment. The original application deadlines—April 1, 2014, for EHs and July 1, 2014 for EPs—have been extended to 11:59 p.m. EST on November 30, 2014.

For more information or to complete an application, visit http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/PaymentAdj_Hardship.html.

2014 RPMS EHR VENDOR LETTERS NOW AVAILABLE

Now that the certified 2014 RPMS EHR has been released, the MU web site has been updated to accommodate those sites who need a vendor letter as proof for Medicare or Medicaid.

Facilities may request a vendor letter for either their Eligible Hospital (EH; inpatient), Eligible Provider (EP; ambulatory) or both by completing the form found on the MU web site at <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfuluse/certificationoverview/certificationletter/>. Be sure to choose the appropriate EHR version under the drop menu “Select Software.”