

2014 RPMS EHR

As announced in the September issue of *MU Monthly*, the 2014 RPMS EHR was certified on August 22, 2014. Once beta testing was completed after an additional month of testing, the Suite was nationally released on September 26, 2014, as a controlled release.

Beginning in FY/CY 2015, all EHs and EPs are required to report using 2014 CEHRT. This means that EHs had to have the 2014 CEHRT in place by October 1, 2014, and EPs must begin using a 2014 certified EHR on January 1, 2015.

With this tight timeline in mind, OIT conducted several trainings this past summer to prepare area EHR teams for the 2014 certified RPMS EHR rollout. OIT also worked with area leadership and EHR teams to identify the initial facilities for deployment. Five areas, including nine hospitals and 22 clinics across Oklahoma, Bemidji, Albuquerque, Billings and Navajo, chose to implement the 2014 RPMS EHR during the September 27 weekend. All upgrades were successful with minimal issues and ranged from five hours to almost nine hours to complete. OIT congratulates all of those facilities that upgraded early in the controlled release schedule and looks forward to assisting those that follow.

A list of facilities that have currently deployed the 2014 RPMS EHR Suite is available on the IHS web site at <http://www.ihs.gov/EHR/index.cfm?module=currentstatus> (note that this list is continually updated).

2014 RPMS EHR Deployment

Keep in mind that the nationally released software is a controlled release (at least for the first install per each area). Requirements include:

1. Providing OIT with the name of the site(s) desiring the upgrade, the support staff assisting in the upgrade, and the dates of the upgrade
2. Completing the pre-upgrade checklist and obtaining the official signatures from the site that indicate the

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appropriate staff is aware of the upgrade and prepared for the workflow changes

3. Running the PXR Environment Checker to ensure that the PXR indexing was completed without errors
4. Confirming that all end-users are aware of the contingency plan (site level)
5. Confirming that a backup is planned (area level)
6. Confirming a plan for rolling back to the back-up database if major issues occur during the upgrade (area level)

Once these tasks have been completed, SQA will push the national release files to the area so they can complete their preparation work.

Sites without a copy of the national release files are still encouraged to do practice installs using the beta files. Prior to these installations, sites should take a snapshot of their original production system and load it onto a test system. Once it is on the test system, sites can apply the beta patches to ensure the upgrades work anticipated.

Note that areas are not required to do an OIT-assisted install; it is just an option for the first installation to help ensure that everything flows smoothly. If areas do not want to participate in an OIT-assisted installation, they

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should still submit their information regarding when they are upgrading so that OIT can schedule on-call staff and alert developers in case they are needed for additional assistance.

For more information about obtaining the 2014 RPMS national release files, contact CDR Lori Moore (Lori.Moore@ihs.gov) or Catherine Whaley (Catherine.Whaley@ihs.gov).

To learn more about the 2014 RPMS EHR and demonstrating MU, visit the Meaningful Use website at <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfuluse/>.

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."

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.