

# Why buy now?

*You might be eligible for federal support*

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**The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act), part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides for incentive payments for the meaningful use of certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology under both Medicare and Medicaid. The final rule for the EHR Incentive Programs was released on July 13, 2010.**

Through HITECH, the federal government will make available incentive payments of up to \$27 billion over 10 years, or up to \$44,000 over 5 years (through Medicare) and \$63,750 over 6 years (through Medicaid) per clinician. The legislation ties payments specifically to the achievement of advances in health care processes and outcomes.

The Medicare EHR incentive program will make payments to Eligible Providers (EP) and eligible hospitals; participation can begin as early as 2011. Physicians practicing in determined "health provider shortage" areas will be eligible for a 10% bonus payment. So designated for having a shortage of primary medical care or of dental or mental health providers, HPSAs may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities.

The Medicare Advantage EHR incentive program provides for payments to Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) whose affiliated eligible professionals and hospitals are meaningful users of certified EHR technology.

The Medicaid EHR incentive program provides for payments to eligible professionals and hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology in their first year of participation and demonstrate meaningful use for up to 5 remaining participation years. Medicaid EHR incentive programs are voluntarily offered by individual states and territories and may begin in 2011.

Eligible hospitals can be acute care facilities, critical access hospitals, or children's hospitals.

Medicare defines an EP as a (1) doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy, (2) doctor of dental surgery or dental medicine, (3) doctor of podiatric medicine, (4) doctor of optometry, or (5) chiropractor. Medicaid, on the other hand, defines an EP as a (1) physician, (2) dentist, (3) certified nurse-midwife, (4) nurse practitioner, or (5) physician assistant practicing in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHR) or a Rural Health Clinic led by a physician assistant.

A provider who meets the eligibility requirements for either Medicare or Medicaid (not both) and is using a certified EHR can collect on the stimulus money.