

2011 Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program – Adoption/Use of Medication Electronic Prescribing Measure Release Notes

CMS is pleased to announce the release of the updated 2011 Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program – Adoption/Use of Medication Electronic Prescribing Measure Release Notes. Measure developers, professional organizations, and other eRx stakeholders have provided comment, clarifications, and technical corrections. The list below details changes to this existing measure made since the initial release of the 2011 eRx Measure Specification.

Updates to the Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program – Adoption/Use of Medication Electronic Prescribing Measure Release Notes, effective October 6, 2011 are *italicized* in the content below:

Hardship Codes Updates

- Added language and two hardship G-codes:
 - G8642: The eligible professional practices in a rural area without sufficient high speed internet access and requests a hardship exemption from the application of the payment adjustment under section 1848(a)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act
 - G8643: The eligible professional practices in an area without sufficient available pharmacies for electronic prescribing and requests a hardship exemption from the application of the payment adjustment under section 1848(a)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act
 - *Added Hardship Exemption Categories*
 - *Eligible Professionals who register to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs and adopt Certified EHR Technology*
 - *Inability to electronically prescribe due to local, state, or federal law or regulation*
 - *Limited prescribing activity*
 - *Insufficient opportunities to report the electronic prescribing measure due to limitations of the measure's denominator*

• Payment Adjustment

- Added "Another option for analysis when the eligible professional does not have prescribing privileges is reporting **G8644** via claims. If this code is utilized, the eligible professional may not be considered for a payment adjustment."
- *Added "In the Medicare Program; Changes to the Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program final rule published in the Federal Register on September 6, 2011, CMS provided additional significant hardship exemption categories for the 2012 eRx payment adjustment for eligible professionals and group practices. In addition, CMS extended the deadline for submission of all Hardship Exemption Requests to November 1, 2011. The additional hardship categories include:*
 - *Eligible professionals who register to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs and adopt Certified EHR Technology*

- *Inability to electronically prescribe due to local, state, or federal law or regulation (e.g., controlled substances)*
- *Limited prescribing activity*
- *Insufficient opportunities to report the electronic prescribing measure due to limitations of the measure's denominator*
- *Requests for hardship exemptions must now be submitted using a web-based tool.*
- *Added "For more information on the hardship exemption categories and on the process for requesting an exemption visit the CMS Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program at <http://www.cms.gov/erx incentive>"*
- *Added submission process for hardship exemptions must now be requested using the CMS Communication Support Page located at https://www.qualitynet.org/portal/server.pt/community/communications_support_system/234*

Description Updates

- *Removed "The availability of an eRx system to receive tiered formulary information, if available, would meet this requirement for 2010."*
- *Added "certified EHR system"*

Instruction Updates

- *Added "or certified EHR"*
- *Added "Successful electronic prescribers who also have at least 10% of their Medicare Part B charges comprised of the codes in the denominator of the measure will be incentive eligible."*
- *Removed "The diagnosis associated with the patient encounter that requires the eRx may be used to report the eRx G-code."*

Formatting Updates

- *Denominator Statement and coding has been moved to follow Instructions*
- *Numerator Statement and coding has been moved to follow Denominator Statement*

• Denominator Updates

Added copyright information

• Numerator Updates

- *Deleted "the following G-code applies to"*
- *Added "an eRx event has occurred during"*
- *Added "or certified EHR system"*

• Rationale Updates

- *Deleted entire rationale*
- *Added new rationale*

• Definitions Updates

- *Added clarification "(Faxes initiated from the eligible professional's office do not qualify as electronic prescribing)."*

- Deleted Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplies
- Added “Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and over the counter medications may be electronically prescribed for the purpose of this measure” to Electronic Prescribing (eRx) definition
- *Changed “Certified EHR Technology” to “Adopt Complete EHR or an EHR Module(s)”*

- **Evidence Supporting the Criterion of the Quality Measure Updates**

- Added information from Bates et al.
- Removed information from Roland, M.O. et al.

Global Edits:

- Replaced e-prescribing with electronic prescribing or eRx throughout the document
- Changed “EP” to eligible professional