

## CMS Launches eHealth

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently launched the eHealth initiative to help providers deliver high-quality health care by simplifying the use of electronic standards and encouraging the adoption of health information technology.

eHealth addresses recent federal electronic health directives that require new paradigms for standardized data-driven operational processes to support three national health care goals: **improved quality of care, improved health outcomes, and reduced costs without compromising quality.**

The eHealth initiative will help to achieve these goals by encouraging interoperability—standardizing and facilitating the sharing of health care data securely and easily among health care providers across different sites of care.

### What is eHealth?

eHealth is a CMS initiative that aligns several Medicare and Medicaid programs, including:

- Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs
- eRx Incentive Program
- Administrative Simplification
- Quality Measurement

### Why eHealth?

eHealth will help providers simplify their administrative and billing responsibilities by unifying electronic standards and health information technology programs. Making the move to eHealth represents a challenge for everyone—providers, technology vendors, payers, and CMS. CMS is committed to helping providers and the industry successfully use eHealth to improve health care and reduce health care costs, improve patient safety, and enhance quality.

None of these initiatives can individually achieve the desired goals, but each is a component in creating a CMS eHealth approach that relies on a robust health IT infrastructure to transform the nation's health care system.

### CMS Support

CMS has a dedicated eHealth website ([www.cms.gov/eHealth](http://www.cms.gov/eHealth)), blog, and listserv for eHealth programs. These resources serve as a central source of information on implementation, guidance, milestones, and critical steps so that providers and other stakeholders can more easily coordinate efforts on ICD-10, EHRs and meaningful use, operating standards, electronic quality measurement, and payment models. CMS looks forward to working with providers and the health care industry on this initiative to support and promote high quality, efficient care delivery in our health care system.