

PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS		
FAQ Number	Question	Answer
7531	What are the payment adjustments for eligible professionals who are not participating in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program? Are there any hardship exceptions?	As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Congress mandated payment adjustments to be applied to Medicare eligible professionals (EPs) who are not meaningful users of Certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technology under the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs. These payment adjustments will be applied beginning on January 1, 2015, for Medicare EPs. Medicaid EPs who can only participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and do not bill Medicare are not subject to these payment adjustments. EPs who can participate in either the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will be subject to the payment adjustments unless they are meaningful users under one of the EHR Incentive Programs in the time periods specified below. Medicare EPs who are not meaningful users will be subject to a payment adjustment beginning on January 1, 2015. For additional information on payment adjustments and hardship exceptions for EPs, please review the Payment Adjustments and Hardship Exceptions Tip Sheet which will be available on our website. For more information about the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, please visit http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms
7533	What are the payment adjustments for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals that are not participating in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program and are there any hardship exceptions?	As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Congress mandated payment adjustments to be applied to Medicare eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) that are not meaningful users of Certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technology under the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs. These payment adjustments will be applied beginning on October 1, 2014, for Medicare eligible hospitals. Payment adjustments for CAHs will be applied beginning with the fiscal year 2015 cost reporting period. Medicaid eligible hospitals that can only participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and do not bill Medicare are not subject to these payment adjustments. Eligible hospitals and CAHs that can participate in either the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will be subject to the payment adjustments unless they are meaningful users under one of the EHR Incentive Programs in the time periods specified below. Medicare Subsection (d) eligible hospitals that are not meaningful users will be subject to a payment adjustment beginning on October 1, 2014. Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) that are not meaningful users will be subject to a payment adjustment for fiscal year 2015. For additional information on payment adjustments and hardship exceptions for eligible hospitals and CAHs, please review the Payment Adjustments and Hardship Exceptions Tip Sheet for Eligible Hospitals and CAHs which will be available on our website. For more information about the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, please visit http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms
7727	If I am participating in the Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program but also provide care to Medicare patients, am I subject to the Medicare payment adjustments?	Yes. While there are no payment adjustments under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, those Medicaid EPs who are also paid under Medicare could be subject to payment adjustments if they are not meaningful EHR users for an applicable reporting period. Adopting, implementing and upgrading EHR technology is not considered meaningful use for these purposes. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the details of the Medicare payment adjustment by reviewing the Stage 1 and 2 final rules, regulations at 42 C.F.R. Part 495, and other guidance at http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Stage_2.html
2709	Are Medicaid eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals subject to payment adjustments or penalties if they do not adopt Promoting Interoperability Program or fail to demonstrate meaningful use?	There are no payment adjustments or penalties for Medicaid providers who fail to demonstrate meaningful use.