



News Release

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ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM BEGINS SECOND YEAR

Providers Participating in Program Have Received \$1.54 Billion in Federal Funds

SACRAMENTO – State officials today announced that \$1.54 billion in incentive payments have been issued to Medi-Cal and Medicare providers in California through a federally-funded electronic health record (EHR) incentive program. The effort is modernizing the state’s health care system by enabling critical patient information to be securely managed electronically, improving health care quality, safety and efficiency.

Since the California EHR Incentive Program began in October 2011, California Medi-Cal providers and hospitals have received more than \$630 million in total payments. More than 10,000 Medi-Cal professionals and 216 hospitals across California have received incentive payments through the California Department of Health Care Services’ (DHCS) EHR Incentive Program, which is funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

On the Medicare side, more than 28,000 California providers and hospitals participate in the Medicare and Medicare Advantage EHR Incentive Program and have received more than \$910 million in total payments. Medicare and Medicare Advantage incentive payments are made by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

“The EHR Incentive Programs have had a profound impact on the ability of health care professionals and hospitals to provide accessible, high-quality care to their patients,” said Dr. Linette Scott, DHCS’ Chief Medical Information Officer. “They are helping to ensure coordinated, patient-centered health care that is delivered at the right place and the right time.”

National Health Information Technology Week 2013 is September 16 to 20, a weeklong observance offering all health care stakeholders an opportunity to unite under one banner, expressing the benefits that health information technology brings to the nation’s health care system – “One Voice, One Vision.” Comprehensive health care reform is more easily achieved by a system-wide adoption of health information technology, which improves the quality of health care delivery, increases patient safety, decreases medical errors and strengthens the interaction between patients and health providers.

Below is more detailed information about Medi-Cal providers who joined the California EHR Incentive Program and the incentive payments received in various areas of the state, as of September 9, 2013:

- Los Angeles Area – more than 2,870 providers received a total of \$201.6 million.
- San Francisco Bay Area – more than 2,082 providers received a total of \$110.8 million.
- San Diego Area – more than 939 providers received a total of \$58.1 million.
- Inland Empire Area – more than 676 providers received a total of \$53.4 million.
- San Joaquin Valley Area – more than 583 providers received a total of \$46 million.
- Sacramento Valley Area – more than 405 providers received a total of \$22.4 million.

For more information about California’s EHR Incentive Program, please log on to:
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/dhcsokit.aspx>.