

Accelerating Meaningful Use in Maryland: Strategies Aimed at Eligible Providers

Abstract:

Electronic health records (EHRs) are considered a critical tool for advancing high quality patient-centered care and are essential to practice transformation. Achieving efficiencies in clinical practice and in quality requires using EHRs in a meaningful way. In an effort to advance the Meaningful Use (MU) of EHRs, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* of 2009 established incentives for Medicare and Medicaid eligible professionals (EPs) who adopt certified EHR systems and meaningfully use them to improve patient care quality and satisfaction, increase population health, and reduce health care costs. Approximately 63 percent of Maryland EPs have not achieved MU. In the spring of 2013, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) collaborated with Maryland stakeholders to assess the challenges experienced by EPs as they worked toward practice transformation and to develop strategies to accelerate the achievement of MU. Over the next 18 months, MHCC will collaborate with various stakeholders to ensure the following strategies are implemented: 1) conduct biannual MU registration and attestation webinars, 2) engage hospitals in MU outreach and education activities with community providers, 3) develop a web-based MU resource center to include general MU information and Maryland Medicaid state-specific information, and 4) establish an incentive program single point of contact to triage and address MU inquiries via phone. These activities will lessen the challenges of EPs in completing the MU process.