



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Bill Richardson
Governor

Kathryn Falls
Secretary

Contact Betina Gonzales McCracken 505-476-6205

May 4, 2010
For Immediate Release

NM Human Services Department Announces a Medicaid Incentive Program for Electronic Health Records

New Mexico Medicaid Providers Could Get \$63,750 for Electronic Health Record Systems

SANTA FE – The NM Human Services Department announces a Medicaid incentive program for electronic health records (EHRs) that has the potential of benefiting hundreds of New Mexico’s health care providers to adopt and/or utilize Health Information Technology.

“This Medicaid incentive payment program is a first of its kind program designed to help Medicaid providers who are interested in adopting, implementing or upgrading an Electronic Health Records system,” said Katie Falls, Human Services Department Secretary. “We are hoping to see many New Mexico physicians, nurse practitioners, hospitals, and other eligible health care providers take advantage of this opportunity to improve Health Information Technology in the state.”

The Medicaid incentive payment program is 100 percent federally funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is scheduled to be up and running by October, 2010. Those health care providers that achieve meaningful use of EHRs could qualify to receive up to \$63,750 over five years.

The Human Services Department will be providing opportunities for health care provider input as it prepares to submit its program plan to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for approval this summer. Part of that input is to assess just how many Medicaid providers plan to participate in the incentive payment program.

EHRs allow medical providers ready access to a patient’s medical history including lab and x-ray results, which can ultimately improve care, health outcomes and reduce health care costs. Meaningful use of electronic health information will transform the health care system, which is the goal of the program. The Department of Health’s public health clinics use electronic health records to improve the quality of patient care and analyze and tailor services to match the needs of patients.

“Having electronic health records in a physician’s office is an important step toward improving accuracy and safety of patient care,” said Health Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD. “This is the first

time physicians have a financial incentive to participate in a system of health information exchange that will enhance the way they deliver care to their patients.”

There are several entities in New Mexico that are involved in promoting Health Information Technology (HIT) and exchange in the state. Each entity has a different role to play.

- The Human Services Department’s Medicaid program is responsible for developing and administering the Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program.
- The Department of Health’s Chief Information Officer is designated as the State Health Information Technology Coordinator.
- The NM Health Information Collaborative, run by LCF Research, is tasked with facilitating Health Information Exchange within the state.
- The NM HIT Regional Extension Center (NM HITREC), run by LCF Research in cooperation with the NM Primary Care Association and the NM Medical Review Association is tasked with disseminating information about HIT developed at the national level; directly assisting physicians with selecting, adopting, or upgrading EHRs; and facilitating provider achievement of meaningful use criteria.

To learn more about health information technology opportunities contact:
NM HITREC, 2309 Renard Place SE, Suite 103, Albuquerque, NM 87106-4264, (505) 938-9900,
e-mail at info@NMHITREC.org or visit the website www.NMHITREC.org

For more information about Medicaid Incentives for EHRs contact the Human Services Department’s Medical Assistance Division at (505) 827-3162.

###