

Resources for APRNs and Registered Nurses on Electronic Records, e-prescribing, “Meaningful Use” and Tele-health

Bonuses for setting up electronic health records systems, penalties for not e-prescribing, “meaningful use”? Resources related to these topics are available:

Electronic Health Records (EHRs) - An APRN can be reimbursed for implementing an electronic health record system (EHR) if he or she attests to meeting the criteria related to **Medicaid** patient care provided with certified EHR products. Attestation directions are available at CMS along with other details. The URL to get started is <https://www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/>.

e-prescribing - The CMS incentives available for electronic prescribing (e-prescribing or eRx) are described at http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage

More than 4000 APRNs received Medicare e-prescribing bonuses from CMS for 2009:
<http://nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/APRN-Resource-Section/Medicare-Bonuses-for-High-Quality-ePrescribing.aspx>

NPs who directly bill Medicare Part B carriers may be subject to penalties for insufficient e-prescribing. To learn about this and avoid the penalties check on NursingWorld:
<http://www.nursingworld.org/npdirectbillupdate>

Meaningful Use - The official site for describing “meaningful use” is that of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC):
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_home/1204 and
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_meaningful_use_announcement/2996. This site also can identify the Regional Extension Center (REC) for your location. RECs are designed to make sure that primary care clinicians get the help they need to select, implement, and use EHRs. The RECs will support and serve health care providers to help them quickly become adept and meaningful users of (EHRs).
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/hit_extension_program/1495/home/17174

A nursing-specific website on Health IT has been established by the American College of Nurse Midwives: <http://www.midwife.org/Health-Information-Technology>. It also includes links to the ONIC and CMS sites. ACNM also includes some early data on those Medicaid payments for EHR implementation.

You can learn more about electronic medical records and earn CE credits by taking the ANA NURSE CE course, “The Electronic Health Record and Meaningful Use: Where Do We Go from Here?” by Pamela Cipriano, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC,FAAN. More information is available at
<http://ananursece.healthstream.com/Pages/Product.aspx?ID=a6efce71-cdb7-e011-b8a9-001517135213&DisplayName=The%20Electronic%20Health%20Record%20and%20Meaningful%20Use:%20Where%20Do%20We%20Go%20From%20Here?>

Tele-health – A good source for questions on tele-health or telemedicine is the American Telemedicine Association. Their URL is <http://www.americantelemed.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>.

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