

NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE**

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Medicaid Practitioners Transition to Electronic Health

Records

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is pleased to announce federal approval of Ohio’s Medicaid Provider Incentive Program (MPIP), an incentive program designed to encourage Medicaid providers to adopt electronic health record (EHR) systems.

EHRs can enhance health care outcomes and reduce overall health care costs by consolidating a patient’s health information and making it available to medical professionals while still ensuring the patient’s privacy. This expedites diagnosis and treatment; improves safety through system checks that ensure multiple prescriptions are safe when taken together, such as e-prescribing; and saves money by eliminating paper and reducing duplication of testing.

“Adopting electronic health records will improve health outcomes for all Ohioans, including individuals enrolled in Medicaid, and will increase efficiency throughout the health care system,” said Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy.

Qualifying Medicaid providers who adopt, implement or upgrade to certified EHR technology and demonstrate meaningful use of EHRs over six years will be eligible for federal incentive payments of up to \$63,750. Qualifying hospitals could be eligible for much more. As a result of MPIP, ODJFS estimates that as many as 4,000 providers serving the Medicaid population will transition to certified EHR systems in the first two years of the program.

“MPIP will be great for health care and great for Ohio’s economy,” said ODJFS Director Michael Colbert. “The EHR systems will need to be installed, upgraded and maintained, creating new jobs around the state.”

The Medicaid Provider Incentive Program will open by June, with incentive payments expected to begin the same month.