

**Alabama EHR
Meaningful Use
Incentive Payment
Program**

**ELIGIBLE HOSPITAL (EH) PROGRAM
PARTICIPATION YEARS**

For all Eligible Hospitals (EH), whether dual-eligible or Medicaid-only, once the payment for Year-3 has been made, the EH will have completed the Meaningful Use (MU) reporting requirements for Alabama Medicaid. This completed State requirement is not affected by the fact that the EH may continue to have reporting requirements with Medicare.

While there are many similarities in the Medicare and Medicaid incentive programs, there are also different requirements. Under the Medicare incentive program, CMS requires that Medicare providers become “meaningful users” by specified dates, and meet associated reporting requirements, in order to avoid Medicare payment adjustments. *(EHs must consult with Medicare for Medicare-related program requirements.)* While States follow related federal program regulations, there are differences in the States’ respective programs according to their own Medicaid programs and MU program designs approved by CMS. Among these differences is the length of time an EH may receive a Medicaid MU incentive payment.

Under the State Medicaid MU programs, incentive payments may be made to EHs in no less than a three year period and no more than a six year period. Alabama makes the incentive payments to EHs in three installments. This may occur in three consecutive program years or in three non-consecutive program years, not to exceed the six-year-period maximum. The year in which the EH actually receives a payment is referred to as the “payment year” and is identified as Year-1, 2, & 3. EHs must establish Medicaid eligibility and report on CEHRT use for each of the three payment years in order to receive the incentive payment. However, in doing so, EHs MUST report to Medicare BEFORE they apply and report to Alabama Medicaid. An EH has no further obligation to continue MU reporting to Medicaid after it has received its Year-3 payment. There are no penalties in Medicaid for a Provider that does not become a “Meaningful User” or does not continue to report on the meaningful use of a CEHRT.

For questions or additional information about Alabama’s MU program:

Medicaid Meaningful Use Administration Division:

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Email: meaningfuluse@medicaid.alabama.gov

Website: <http://www.onehealthrecord.alabama.gov/MU/index.html> .