



Please Note:

This is a newsletter put out by CMS about an extension of the period to apply for a hardship exception for the 2014 EHR Provider EHR Incentive Program. The granting of hardships is solely at the discretion of CMS; the Bureau has no part in this. **If you have any questions, you must contact CMS.**



Hardship Exception Applications to Avoid the 2015 Medicare Payment Adjustment Due November 30, 2014

CMS is announcing its intent to reopen the submission period for hardship exception applications for eligible professionals and eligible hospitals to avoid the [2015 Medicare payment adjustments](#) for not demonstrating meaningful use of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT). The new deadline will be November 30, 2014. Previously, the hardship exception application deadline was April 1, 2014 for eligible hospitals and July 1, 2014 for eligible professionals.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Congress mandated payment adjustments under Medicare for eligible hospitals, critical access hospitals, and eligible professionals that are not meaningful users of CEHRT. The Recovery Act allows the Secretary to consider, on a case-by-case basis, hardship exceptions for eligible hospitals, critical access hospitals, and eligible professionals to avoid the payment adjustments.

This reopened [hardship exception application](#) submission period is for eligible professionals and eligible hospitals that:

- Have been unable to fully implement 2014 Edition CEHRT due to delays in 2014 Edition CEHRT availability; **AND**
- Eligible professionals who were unable to attest by October 1, 2014 and eligible hospitals that were unable to attest by July 1, 2014 using the flexibility options provided in the CMS [2014 CEHRT Flexibility Rule](#).

These are the only circumstances that will be considered for this reopened hardship exception application submission period. [Applications](#) must be submitted **by 11:59 PM EST November 30, 2014**.

More Information

More information about the application process will be shared soon. We intend to address this issue in upcoming rulemaking. Visit the [Payment Adjustments and Hardship Exceptions webpage](#) for more information about Medicare EHR Incentive Program payment adjustments.



Contact Information



As always, anytime you have a question or need assistance, please feel free to contact us. We will get back to you as quickly as possible.

⚡ Please be sure to include the provider's name and NPI when contacting us. ⚡

- ◆ For questions relating to **Meaningful Use (MU)**, send an email to EHRMeaningfuluse.TennCare@tn.gov
- ◆ For **all other questions**, send an email to TennCare.EHRIncentive@tn.gov
- ◆ The **CMS Help Desk** can be reached at 1-888-734-6433.
- ◆ **TennCare Medicaid EHR Incentive Program web site:** http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/ehr_intro.shtml
- ◆ **PowerPoint Presentations** on different subject areas are available here:
http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/ehr_page6.shtml

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