

## Medicare's Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program

Beginning in 2009, to further promote adoption of e-Prescribing (eRx) system, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) established a five-year program of **incentive payments of eligible professionals** when they eRx for Medicare patients seen in their offices. Physicians who are eligible for the incentive payments **but fail to adopt eRx will face penalties beginning in 2012.**

Year of e-Prescribing	Incentive Amount	Penalty Amount
<b>2011</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-2%</b>

To avoid penalties in 2012 and 2013, an eligible physician must report the eRx G-code, G8853, at least 25 times for Medicare office visits and other applicable services on Medicare claim forms (for applicable CPT codes included in the CMS e-Prescribing measure specifications). This reporting is required regardless of the level of eRx or EHR system used. Those who receive ARRA stimulus funds for EHR in any given year are not eligible for the Medicare eRx incentive in that year.

- To avoid penalties in 2012, at least **10 of your e-prescriptions must occur and must be reported** on your Medicare claim forms during the **January 2, 2011 through June 30, 2011** reporting period. All claims for services furnished between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011 must be received and processed by no later than one month after the reporting period.
- To avoid penalties in 2013, **an additional 15 e-prescriptions must occur and be reported** on your Medicare claim forms **during calendar year 2011.**

For physicians who are not using an EHR, Allscripts provides a free and a \$20 per month on-line e-Prescribing system that will meet the above requirements. You can get more information and register for these products at the following websites:

- Allscripts e-prescribing information: <http://www.allscripts.com/eprescribe>
- Allscripts Basic solution (free): <https://erxnowregistration.allscripts.com/>
- Allscripts Deluxe solution (\$20.00/m) <https://erxnowregistration.allscripts.com/Home.aspx>

For more information on e-Prescribing

- AMA's **Understanding the basics of Medicare's Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program**  
<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/472/faq-cms-incentive-program.pdf>
- AMA's **Clinician's Guide to Electronic Prescribing**  
[http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/472/clinicians\\_guide\\_combined3.pdf](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/472/clinicians_guide_combined3.pdf)
- For future installments of frequently asked questions; [www.ama-assn.org/go/hit](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/hit)