



# HITArkansas

Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center  
[www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com)



Arkansas Foundation  
for Medical Care<sup>SM</sup>  
[www.afmc.org](http://www.afmc.org)

Dear Provider,

HITArkansas and AFMC are developing communication tools for Arkansas providers interested in health information technology and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's (ARRA) incentive programs. One of these tools is a newsletter that will bring together recent news about HIT, health information exchange (HIE) and ARRA incentives. Local, regional and state information will be included.

We want to share the newsletter and other materials in the format that is most convenient for you. Please take a moment to let us know your preference by filling out the form below and returning it via fax to 501-212-8689.

You may also sign up for our electronic newsletter directly by visiting our website [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com) and clicking on the link "Join our E-Newsletter Mailing List".

Your response is greatly appreciated.

No, please do not send me anything.

Yes, please send me a newsletter by:

- Email
- Fax (two page maximum)
- Mail (paper version)

Please complete the form below and fax to: 501-212-8689

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

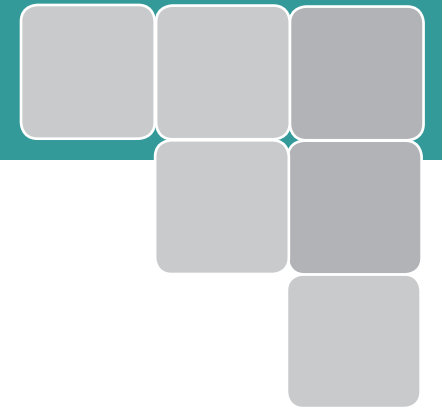
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Only required if you selected "yes")

Your information is kept confidential and we do not sell, lease or distribute to third parties. By signing this form you agree to communication from HITArkansas, a division of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care.

## The Newsletter

August 2010



# HITArkansas

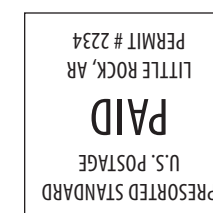
Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center  
[www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com)



**Bringing you the latest news and  
information on Electronic Health Records  
and Health Information Technology**

Coming next month: Your guide to meaningful use

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Arkansas Foundation  
for Medical Care<sup>SM</sup>  
[www.afmc.org](http://www.afmc.org)

401 West Capitol Avenue  
Suite 410  
Little Rock, AR 72201





## Hello and...

Welcome to the first official newsletter from **HITArkansas**, the designated Regional Extension Center for Arkansas. This newsletter will bring you the latest information on HIT initiatives and keep you up-to-date on the activities of **HITArkansas**, a division of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care.

The primary role of the Regional Extension Center is to recruit and assist eligible providers in the adoption, implementation and use of electronic health records (EHR), and to assist providers with activities towards achieving “meaningful use.” Our goal is to certify 1,280 priority primary care providers in meaningful use by the end of calendar year 2011.

To date, over 600 physicians have pre-applied for the program. We encourage you to visit our website [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com) and complete an application as soon as possible. We plan to begin scheduling site visits in August 2010.

## Why Transition Now?

- Low-cost assistance with implementation and training from **HITArkansas**
- Entry after 2011 will increase fees and out-of-pocket costs... get in now to avoid higher costs
- Delayed implementation and certification in meaningful use will result in decreased Medicare reimbursements beginning in 2015

## CMS launches new incentives website

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid has launched an official website designed to provide timely, detailed information about the EHR incentive programs. You may access this site at: <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/>

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Medicare and Medicaid will provide incentive payments to eligible providers and hospitals as they adopt, implement (or upgrade) and become certified in the meaningful use of EHR technology. Summarized incentives, as facilitated by **HITArkansas**, are as follows:

### ■ Medicare

- Reimbursements up to \$44,000 paid over five years if defined meaningful use of certified EHR begins by 2012 (see the CMS website above for details)
- PPCPs are eligible for low-cost assistance with implementation and training
- Eligible hospitals include critical access hospitals and rural hospitals
- Incentives start in 2011 and end in 2015
- Get in early — reduced reimbursement begins as soon as 2013

### ■ Medicaid

- Reimbursements up to \$63,750 – physicians can receive up to \$21,250 the first year to offset cost of EHR
- Eligible providers must have 30% Medicaid caseload (20% for pediatricians)
- Eligible providers include: Physicians, NPs, CNMs, Dentists, PAs
- Eligible hospitals: acute care, children’s hospitals
- Incentives are based on individual providers. If you are part of a practice, each eligible professional may qualify for an incentive payment – up to 10 per location.
- Each eligible professional is only eligible for one incentive program (Medicaid or Medicare), regardless of how many practices or locations they provide services. Eligible professionals are allowed to switch programs once.

Details of the incentive programs may be found under “Resources” on our website: [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com)



*Is my practice ready for meaningful use?  
Who will help us get meaningful use certification?  
Is my current EHR certified?  
I need help selecting a certified EHR vendor!*

*The seminar is free – but space is limited!  
Register online today [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com)  
and click on events!*

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## HITArkansas: EHR and Meaningful Use Seminar

As the Regional Extension Center for Arkansas, **HITArkansas** will be conducting educational seminars across the state that cover:

- The primary role of the Regional Extension Center
- Latest updates on EHR vendor certification
- HIPAA goes HITECH
- What is “meaningful use” – and how does it apply to my practice?
- How to achieve certification in meaningful use

### The ideal remedy for all your Electronic Health Record initiatives:

- Help with EHR vendor selection
- Workflow analysis
- Implementation services
- Meaningful use certification

### Who should attend?

Physicians, office/practice managers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, federally qualified health centers led by a PA, children’s hospitals and acute care hospitals.

To accommodate your busy schedules, we will host a morning and afternoon session at the following times and locations:

7:30 – 11 a.m. Breakfast Seminar  
12:30 – 4 p.m. Lunch Seminar

**August 11 – Texarkana, AR**  
**August 25 – Rogers**  
**September 1 – Little Rock**

**August 18 – Jonesboro**  
**August 31 – Little Rock**  
**September 9 – El Dorado**

Please check [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com) for more information.

## ONC & CMS issue final rules on meaningful use and temporary EHR certification

On July 13 and July 18, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a series of final rules defining meaningful use, the standards and certification criteria for the certification of EHR technology, and the temporary certification of EHR vendors. You may find links the full text and summaries of the final rules under “Resources” on our website: [www.hitarkansas.com](http://www.hitarkansas.com)

### ■ Meaningful use has three main components:

- The use of a certified EHR system in a meaningful manner (e.g.: e-Prescribing)
- The use of certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of health care
- The use of certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures

Use of certified EHR technology is a core requirement for providers to achieve meaningful use and to qualify to receive incentive payments available under Medicare and Medicaid. Certification is required to ensure that a product or service will work as expected and will include the capabilities claimed by the EHR vendor. EHR technology certification assures health care providers that the EHR technology they choose has been tested and includes the capabilities they need in order to become meaningful users of EHR technology.

In addition to the national certification program, AFMC/**HITArkansas** has issued a request for proposal to compile a list of supported EHR vendors as an added level of confidence for Arkansas health care providers. “**HITArkansas** offers providers a route to achieving meaningful use by connecting them with a highly scrutinized list of EHR vendors,” said Jonathan Fuchs, chief operating officer, AFMC. “We will monitor system implementation and training very closely, so the vendors we select to support guarantee that they can meet the demanding deadlines required for achievement of meaningful use.” ▲