



**New York State Department of Health
Medicaid Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
External Stakeholder Feedback**

HEALTHeLINK

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New York State Department of Health

99 Washington Avenue

Albany, New York

Introduction

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law on February 17, 2009, by President Obama, provided billions of dollars to states to implement Electronic Health Record (EHR) technologies. Administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Provider Incentive Payment Program provides incentive payments to eligible Medicaid and Medicare providers and hospitals to achieve “meaningful use” of EHR technologies. To inform and clarify the incentive payment program to the Medicaid provider community, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) provided more than thirty (30) presentations to stakeholder groups from throughout New York State. A number of stakeholder groups, in response, offered comment on the incentive program.

This document represents a summary of comments from HEALTHeLINK™. HEALTHeLINK™ is collaboration among physician, hospital, and insurance organizations to share clinical information in efficient and meaningful ways to improve the delivery of care, enhance clinical outcomes, and control healthcare costs throughout the Western New York region.

New York State Department of Health – Office of Health Insurance Programs

James J. Figge, M.D., M.B.A., Chair Medical Director
Phyllis Johnson, HIT Policy Coordinator

New York State Department of Health – Office of Health Information Technology Transformation (OHITT)

Roberto Martinez, MD, Medical Director

HEALTHeLINK™

Daniel Porreca, Executive Director

New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation (Program Consultants)

Donna O'Leary, PMP, Program Consultant

HEALTHeLINK™ – An Overview



HEALTHeLINK™ is a collaboration among physician, hospital, and insurance organizations to share clinical information in efficient and meaningful ways to improve the delivery of care, enhance clinical outcomes, and control healthcare costs throughout the Western New York region. HEALTHeLINK™ is a not-for-profit organization. HEALTHeLINK™ supports and is working toward the vision of creating community-based virtual medical records and other clinical applications. Achieving that vision means:

- Medical professionals will have access to information they need to treat quickly and safely
- Duplicate tests and procedures will be avoided
- Medical information can speak for a patient in an emergency
- Quality, safety, and efficiency will help control healthcare costs

The following are comments from Mr. Daniel Porreca, Executive Director of HEALTHeLINK™, in response to the New York State Department of Health Office of Health Insurance Programs (NYS DOH OHIP) presentation regarding the Medicaid Incentive Payment System.

Leveraging Investments

“I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. We need to leverage all the investments made to date by New York State and the local community stakeholders from both a policy and technology perspective in RHIOs. RHIOs have developed a significant relationship with the providers in their communities, and it's important in ensuring physicians' understanding and leverage the services available to them in order to meet the overall objectives of these funding opportunities. To date, there's been close to \$50 million invested in Western New York on administrative and clinical data exchanges, not counting the recent Beacon Award. I believe we need to leverage that investment to the maximum and take advantage of what has already been accomplished. I also believe we should leverage the RHIOs for authentication services, for providers in their communities, as RHIOs have that ability to get that last mile, right into the physician office.”



Medicaid's Involvement

“The health plans in Western New York have been a key partner in making investments in both administrative and clinical exchanges. They recognize that these efforts will help the community by both improving quality and lowering cost. Both of which are good for their businesses. I encourage Medicaid to join the collaboration. In other communities, health plans are not as committed to the health information technology efforts, and to the extent Medicaid can impress and influence participation with those reluctant to participate, it would provide a tremendous boost.”

Coordination with Regional Extension Centers

“I strongly suggest dollars being invested through Medicaid by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Health Information Exchange (HIE) supplement the Regional Expansion Center dollars, thereby maximizing the opportunity for provider practices.”

Medicaid Certified / Data Models

“Among the statewide strategies being considered is the notion of certifying RHIOs as Medicaid Service Bureaus. Following a credentialing process outlined and prescribed by the New York State Commissioner of Health, RHIOs could position their strategies as an overall component of the Medicaid landscape. HEALTHeLINK™ welcomes this approach and suggests that among their strongest value is their knowledge of local providers, local hospitals, and local payers.”

“Among the various data models and data sharing constructs, HEALTHeLINK's hybrid federated model provides quick access to patient information and flexibility in maintenance. Currently, HEALTHeLINK™ has 1.7 million results and reports being added monthly, with more than 28 million total reports to date.”

