

CHIPRA in Support of Meaningful Use

The Medical Assistance (MA) EHR incentive program's goal is to increase the use of electronic health care information to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of service delivery for Medical Assistance consumers. The PA Department of Welfare recognizes that EHR adoption alone is not sufficient. Providers (meaning hospitals, physicians and other eligible providers) must become meaningful users of EHR technology which includes measuring and improving patient outcomes and exchanging health information. The Department's Medical Assistance HIT vision is to improve the quality and coordination of care by connecting providers to patient information at the point of care through the meaningful use of EHRs.

The PA Department of Welfare's CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant offers two areas where Meaningful Use can be supported – category A and D. Category A focuses on the CMS pediatric quality measures. When CMS identified the pediatric quality reporting measures for meaningful use they aligned them with the core set of pediatric quality measures proposed under CHIPRA. The overlapping measures are: BMI documentation, immunization status, appropriate testing for pharyngitis and Chlamydia screening. The Department foresees the possibility of CMS expanding the meaningful use measures to include more of the pediatric quality measures.

Category D of the grant focuses on the implementation and testing of a pediatric electronic health record model format. Through this portion of the grant, MA is reviewing the use and capabilities of EHRs in different provider settings which will support the ARRA HITECH goal of encouraging provider adoption of a certified electronic health record. The CHIPRA grant will allow MA to examine the common elements that make up an EHR and those elements that are required in unique provider settings such as pediatric practices. The grant will also allow MA to work with the grant team to develop IT assessment tools, training and technical assistance programs and design quality improvement projects relevant to specific providers and measure the impact of EHRs on quality of care and cost savings.