CAH Incentive Payment Process

After successful attestation to CMS, there are still a few additional steps to complete before EHR incentive payment will be received. In order for the incentive payment to be calculated, the CAH must submit documentation to its Medicare contractor to support the costs incurred for certified EHR technology. Once the Medicare contractor calculates the allowable amount and Medicare Share the CAH should expect its interim incentive payment within 4 to 6 weeks. (CMS FAQ 10719)

Required forms and notification to the Fiscal Intermediary (FI)/ Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) are spelled out on the WPSMedicare website, the MAC for Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.

**Stage 1:** The initial information on allowable costs is submitted by the critical access hospital after attestation as a meaningful user. The WPSMedicare site includes a sample template for collection of necessary information for initial submission. Your professional audit firm will most likely have similar, detailed forms for use.

**Stage 2:** Upon receipt of your initial data, WPSMedicare has 10 days to request additional information, if needed.

**Stage 3:** The initial review is completed within 30 days after receipt of all requested information. Information on the allowable cost, along with Medicare share data retrieved from the latest cost report, is entered into the Claims Processing System (FISS). The National Level Repository (NLR) gathers the data and processes the payment. Note: payment is not sent from WPSMedicare. A separate contractor has been assigned to process the EHR incentive payments for CMS.

**Stage 4:** Payments are reconciled during the audit of the cost report for the period in which the incentive payment(s) were made. At that time, supporting documentation for the listing (e.g. invoices, depreciation schedules, etc.) will be requested for detailed auditing. Medicare share data will also be recalculated if any of the components themselves have changed during the final settlement of the cost report.

**Stage 5:** If needed, a payment adjustment for the incentive payment will be processed based on the review of the final cost report and/or underlying data.