



CMS Publishes Final Rule Making Changes to the Medicare Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program for Calendar Year 2011

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a final rule on August 31, 2011 making changes to the Medicare eRx Incentive Program for calendar year (CY) 2011. The rule modifies the eRx quality measure used for certain reporting periods in CY 2011 and provides additional “significant hardship” exemption categories for eligible professionals and group practices to request an exemption during 2011 for the 2012 eRx payment adjustment. CMS’s rule also extends the deadline for submitting requests for an exemption under the two significant hardship exemption categories for the 2012 eRx payment adjustment that were finalized in the CY 2011 Medicare physician fee schedule final rule (which was published November 29, 2010). The deadline for the submission of hardship exemption requests for the 2012 eRx payment is now November 1, 2011.

The final rule, which is scheduled for publication in the September 6, 2011 Federal Register, may currently be found at the following web address: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-22629_PI.pdf.