

# **Federal Government Takes Another Step Toward Stimulus Payments for Physicians and Hospitals**



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(Norman, OK/Washington D.C.) – The picture is becoming clearer as to how physicians and hospitals will be able to access Federal stimulus money by adopting electronic health records (EHR). One of the requirements is for them to use “certified” EHR technology. The process had yet to be clearly defined, until now.

Today, the Office of the National Coordinator for Healthcare Information Technology (ONC) issued the first round of proposed rules for the EHR certification process. This is vital to both physicians and healthcare IT vendors because a pathway to certification is being established. Once a doctor or hospital adopts a “certified” EHR and meets other criteria, they can qualify for tens of thousands of dollars in incentive payments from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It also allows EHR providers, like Online Medsource, to fully prepare their products for certification.

“While this is only the first round of rulemaking concerning the EHR Certification process, it gives Online Medsource the opportunity to ensure its products meet the standards required for doctors and hospitals to qualify for Medicare/Medicaid EHR Incentive Payments. We will follow the rule making process closely and will comment and participate when warranted,” says Agi Lurtz, President and CEO of Online Medsource.

Through the Medicare/Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs physicians can receive money for adopting EHR technology. This was established through the HITECH Act within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. CMS will oversee the Medicare Incentive program, while the states will manage the Medicaid Incentive programs.