



Information on Medicare ePrescribing Penalty

March 31, 2011

Who should read this?

- A. Any physicians who will accept **Medicare** FFS patients in 2012 or 2013
- B. Any staff physician who is interesting in e-prescribing in place of implementing an EHR system in their practice.

Executive Summary

Providers who do not successfully e-prescribe during 10 Medicare encounters between January and June 2011 will be subject to a 1% reduction in 2012 Medicare rates. Providers who successfully e-prescribe during 25 Medicare encounters between January and December 2011 will be exempt from the 1.5% reduction in 2013 Medicare rates.

Some physicians may qualify for a hardship exemption. Physician practices using a certified EHR with e-prescribing will avoid the e-prescribing penalty but only if the physician enters special codes into a few Medicare claims.

Decision Matrix

A. Physician who wants to avoid Medicare FFS ePrescribing Penalty

Current Situation	Medicare e-Rx Incentive	Get Temp e-Rx	Enter Special Billing codes	Adopt SJHS ePrescribe
EHR live now with e-Rx			Yes	
EHR live July – Sept 2011 with e-Rx		Yes	Yes	
EHR Live Oct – Dec 2011	Yes	Yes	Yes	
No EHR 2011 but want ePrescribing	Yes		Yes	Yes

B. Physician who has no Medicare FFS

Current Situation	Medicare e-Rx Incentive	Get Temp e-Rx	Enter Special Billing Codes	Adopt SJHS ePrescribe
No EHR 2011 but want ePrescribing				Yes

Where to Find Temporary e-Prescribing Solution

If you need a temporary certified e-prescribing solution, we recommended **Allscripts Basic** at www.nationalerx.com for no cost and month-to-month use.

Where to Find Full Function e-Prescribing Solution

The AMA provides an e-Prescribing Learning Center at www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/eprescribing/home.shtml which assists finding a solution, calculates the ROI, and provides tips for implementing e-prescribing.

SJHS is now offering the **Allscripts Platinum ePrescribe** solution to qualifying physicians at no cost. The solution includes functions such as e-prescribing from an iPhone or BlackBerry. There are additional fees for an optional interface to the practice management registration system. For more information, contact Kay Barancik at 714-347-7706 or kay.barancik@stjoe.org

Where to Find More Information on Medicare ePrescribing Rules

For more information on the Medicare rules including how to enter billing codes, go to: <http://www.cms.gov/ERXIncentive> .