

Eli's Rehab Report

NEWS BRIEFS: Feds Roll Out EHR Standards -- Ensure Your Piece of the Incentive Pie

Fuzzy on where the government is going with electronic health records? On Dec. 30, 2009, the Office for the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology released an interim final rule with an initial set of standards and specs for electronic health records (EHRs), according to the American Physical Therapy Association's weekly news bulletin, News Now.

This rule was born out of the Medicare and Medicaid Incentive Payments program, which plans to pay incentives to eligible professionals for the "meaningful use" of a certified EHR. Consequently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also released a proposed rule that spells out criteria for "meaningful use," News Now reported.

Unfortunately the incentive program does not recognize PTs, OTs, and SLPs as "eligible professionals." However, both rules are open for public comment for 60 days from the date they are published in the Federal Register, News Now pointed out.

To view the proposed rule, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/E9-31217.pdf>.