

Health Information Compliance Alert

Reader Question: Can You Still Use The MU Hardship Exception For This Year?

Question: We are still not able to meet the meaningful use (MU) requirements this year. What can we do?

Answer: You're in luck, because the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently announced that it has reopened submission for hardship exception applications. CMS also extended the deadline for applications until Nov. 30, 2014 at 11:59 pm EST.

You'll enjoy this reprieve if you're an eligible professional (EP) or eligible hospital (EH) and haven't demonstrated MU of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) for 2014, said associate attorney **Jefferson Lin** in an Oct. 23 blog posting for the law firm **Ogden Murphy Wallace Attorneys**. Specifically, you can take advantage of the reopened hardship exception application submission period and extended deadline if you:

- Have been unable to fully implement 2013 Edition CEHRT due to delays in availability; AND
- Were unable to attest by Oct. 1, 2014 (for EPs) or by July 1, 2014 (for EHs) using the flexibility options provided in the CMS 2014 CEHRT Flexibility Rule.

Resources: You can access the hardship exception extension application at www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/HardshipExtension_Application.pdf. For more information on the hardship exception, go to www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/PaymentAdj_Hardship.html.