

## **E-PRESCRIBING: WILL YOU BE SUCCESSFUL BY JUNE 30, 2011?**

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Eligible healthcare professionals who do not e-prescribe based upon claims submitted between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011 may be subject to a payment reduction for covered services under the Medicare Part B fee schedule. Providers are required to e-prescribe as part of ten Medicare patient encounters by June 30, 2011. If they do not, their Medicare payments of all encounters in 2012 will be reduced by 1%. If providers do not e-prescribe as part of 25 Medicare patient encounters by December 31, 2011, their Medicare payments for all encounters in 2013 will be reduced by 1.5%, followed by a 2% reduction in Medicare payments during 2014.

A provider or group practice may request an exemption if they practice in a rural area without sufficient high speed internet access or if they practice in an area without sufficient available pharmacies for electronic prescribing.

To avoid the 2012 e-prescribing penalty, physicians are required to e-prescribe using a qualifying e-prescribing system and report the G8553 code on at least 10 Medicare Part B claims from January 1, 2011, through June 30, 2011. However, physicians now have an opportunity to attest through an on-line web portal that they are eligible for one of the following penalty exemptions:

- Provider is registered to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and has adopted certified EHR technology
- Provider is unable to electronically prescribe due to local, State, or Federal law or Regulation (e.g., prescribes controlled substances)
- Provider will prescribe fewer than 10 prescriptions between January 1, 2011 June 30, 2011
- There are insufficient opportunities to report the e-prescribing measure due to program limitations

Contact your business advisors for more information on the best ways to become a successful e-prescriber before June 30, 2011.

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