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State offers financial incentives for eligible Medicaid providers

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services establishes Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment program

(Anchorage, AK) — As the health care landscape continues to modernize, recent legislation was passed to encourage the adoption of Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology in documenting patient care. Beginning January 2011, the Alaska Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment program will begin accepting registration for incentive payments to eligible professionals and eligible hospitals as they adopt, implement or upgrade, and demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology in the management of patient populations.

To streamline the process in applying for the incentive and provide support resources to Medicaid providers during their transition, the state Department of Health and Social Services has established the Alaska Medical Assistance program State Level Registry (SLR). The SLR Web portal is a centralized "one-stop" launching pad of available tools for Medicaid providers to manage their EHR Incentive information. Medicaid providers will also be able to educate themselves on the benefits of Health Information Technology (HIT) and be a part of transitioning the quality, efficiency and safety of health care delivery.

Alaska is one of only 11 states implementing the registration for the Incentive Payment Program in January 2011. The other states are Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

For more information about the Alaska Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program and the SLR please visit <http://ak.arraincentive.com/>.

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