

Meaningful Use Hardship Exemptions

March 3, 2016

In order to receive full payment from Medicare for part B claims, CMS requires that physicians make changes within their practice to report additional information as a component of the Affordable Care Act. E-Prescribing, EMR implementation, and PQRS/PQRI are the initiatives that physicians have been mandated to comply with in order to receive all they are entitled to. However, there are a number of factors within meaningful use compliance where it may be difficult for a provider to meet the minimum requirements to avoid the penalty, such as the volume of patients seen, where patients are treated, or limitations based on geographical location. In the event that a payment reduction is assessed by Medicare for failure to meet meaningful use criteria, but you feel that there are circumstances that prevent your practice from successfully implementing the requirements, you may request a hardship exemption.

For 2015 data (which will be subject to a payment reduction for 2017 Medicare claims), if you or your organization did not successfully meet meaningful use for an EHR reporting period in 2015 and would like to apply for a hardship exception, the application must meet the new extended EP deadline of **July 1, 2016**. CMS also released new “streamlined” application forms, “that reduce the amount of information that EPs, eligible hospitals, and CAHs must submit to apply for an exception”.

See the link below for further information:

https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/legislation/ehrincentiveprograms/paymentadj_hardship.html