



**New York State Department of Health
Medicaid Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
External Stakeholder Feedback**

**The Nurse Practitioner
Association New York State**

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New York State Department of Health

99 Washington Avenue

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Introduction

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law on February 17, 2009, by President Obama, provided billions of dollars to states to implement Electronic Health Record (EHR) technologies. Administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Provider Incentive Payment Program provides incentive payments to eligible Medicaid and Medicare providers and hospitals to achieve “meaningful use” of EHR technologies. To inform and clarify the incentive payment program to the Medicaid provider community, the New York State Department of Health (DOH), Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) provided more than thirty (30) presentations to stakeholder groups from throughout New York State. A number of stakeholder groups, in response, offered comment on the incentive program.

This document represents a summary of comments from The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State (NPA). NPA is a membership organization dedicated to promoting quality healthcare through the empowerment of nurse practitioners and the profession.

New York State Department of Health – Office of Health Insurance Programs

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The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State – Introduction

The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State (NPA) is a member organization dedicated to promoting high standards of healthcare delivery through the empowerment of nurse practitioners and the profession throughout New York State. The NPA was formed in 1980 and has grown steadily in membership and activity. Currently, the NPA has more than 2,700 members from nearly every county in New York State. Providing feedback to the New York State Department of Health, Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP), was Thomas Thomas Nicotera, MHHA, JD, Director of Membership and Public Affairs.

Survey Results

In April 2010, the NPA distributed an electronic survey to its membership regarding Electronic Health Records (EHR) and related Health Information Technology (HIT) issues. More than 2,700 surveys were distributed, and 171 were returned. The benchmark question, as described by Mr. Nicotera, asked nurse practitioners (NP) if their practice had a 30% level of service to Medicaid members. Fifty-eight percent indicated that their practice did meet the 30% level of care required by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in order to receive incentive payments. The majority of respondents indicated that among their needs regarding EHR were technical support, hardware and software upgrades, and similar technical assistance. Similarly, respondents indicated that over the next five years, education, training, and funding would comprise the bulk of their EHR implementation workload.

Among the other responses was that 82% of the respondents would be willing to take advantage of grant opportunities to implement EHR in their practice.

Education and Information

Nurse practitioners provide care in a variety of settings, including free-standing clinics and hospitals. Among the outreach efforts by the NPA will be informing hospital-based NPs of the details of the incentive payment program.
