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Dear Provider:

This letter provides information on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Public Health Meaningful Use Objectives as related to the CMS Medicare, and Medicaid, Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs in New Hampshire. Both of these programs require that Eligible Professionals (EPs) and Eligible Hospitals (EHs) report Public Health Objectives as applicable and when available to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services (NH DHHS) when attesting as a meaningful user of certified EHR technology.

For Stage 1, EHs have the option to attest to the Syndromic Surveillance measure for both years. EPs and EHs may claim exclusions (as applicable) when attesting for a Medicare, or Medicaid, EHR Incentive Program payment. For information on Stage 1 objectives, please visit the CMS EHR Incentive Programs website at www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms.

For Stage 2, CMS recently published a final rule that specifies the criteria that Eligible Professionals (EPs), Eligible Hospitals (EHs), and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) must meet in order to continue to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. Details regarding the Stage 2 objectives, as they will be addressed in New Hampshire, can be found in the attached fact sheets. We have also enclosed for your use a registration form with instructions. Please fill out and return the registration form as soon as you can so we may plan for 2014 participation by interested entities.

It is important to note that for Stage 2, NH DHHS is accepting electronic syndromic surveillance data and electronic laboratory data from EHs. Until NH DHHS can implement solutions for the other public health meaningful use objectives, both EPs and EHs may claim exclusions (as applicable) when attesting for a Medicare, or Medicaid, EHR Incentive Program payment.

NH DHHS will also provide periodic updates on the status of the public health meaningful use solutions on the NH DHHS web site at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bphsi/meaningful-use.htm> as well as the Regional Extension Center of New Hampshire website at <http://www.recnh.org/>. For more information on how to participate in the EHR Incentive Program for Medicare or Medicaid, please contact the Regional Extension Center of New Hampshire at 603-717-5420 or visit <http://www.recnh.org/>.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Jerry Bardsley either via email (jbardsley@dhhs.state.nh.us) or telephone (603-271-0548) if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Brook Dupee
Chief
Bureau of Public Health Statistics & Informatics