

Health Informatics and Technology

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Healthcare Risks – CMS Signals that Meaningful Use Program Will Change Significantly for Physicians

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On January 11, 2016, CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt announced the Medicare Electronic Health Record Incentive Program will be replaced significantly in 2017 by the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for physicians. Slavitt stated that CMS has been working closely with physician organizations, and has developed key themes that will guide the changes. CMS plans to move from rewarding providers for the use of technology to rewarding providers for patient outcomes. In addition, Slavitt stated that providers will be able to better customize their technology needs. Moreover, Slavitt explained that CMS is very focused on healthcare technology interoperability to further enhance use. Importantly, however, these new reforms are focused on physicians, not hospitals. This session will explore the importance of using data to prepare for this change beyond meeting acceptable EMR Stage levels.

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Quality initiatives in health care

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Quality initiatives in health care are vital to the success and implementation for all strategic issues related to successful outcomes. Increasing customer satisfaction and improving lines of services require significant thought, planning, and execution. Following business process improvement initiatives and identifying opportunities for improvement in the core business require special skills and training. Applying lean principles and project management expertise along with industry knowledge and effective leadership can be the difference between success and failure in a very competitive and changing health care environment. This research will look at best practices as well as challenges faced by the industry.

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