**What is "Meaningful Use"?**

There are three main components of Meaningful Use (MU):

- The use of a certified electronic health record (EHR) in a meaningful manner, such as e-prescribing.
- The use of certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of health care.
- The use of certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures.

Simply put, "Meaningful Use" means providers need to show they're using certified EHR technology in ways that can be measured significantly in quality and in quantity.

**Who is eligible to participate?**

- Eligible Professionals (EPs) whom are not “hospital-based”; which is any EP that does not have 90% or more of their services performed in an inpatient or emergency department setting (place of service codes 21 and 23).
- EPs must also have 50% of their patient encounters at locations where an electronic health record is available.

**Which MU Program, Medicare or Medicaid, will I participate in?**

- **Medicaid**: EPs are Physicians (primarily Doctors of Medicine and Doctors of Osteopathy), Dentists, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants practicing in rural health clinics, and Certified Nurse Midwives. EPs must meet Medicaid patient volume thresholds projected to be 20% for pediatricians and 30% for other providers.
- **Medicare**: EPs are Physicians (primarily Doctors of Medicine, Osteopathy, Podiatry and Optometry), Chiropractors and Dentists. EP incentive amounts will largely be based on fee-for-service allowable charges in Part B Medicare, although the reporting is on all patients (in all health plans).

**What am I expected to do?**

- Eligible professionals will be required to meet 15 core and 5 menu objectives as well as submit data for clinical quality measures.
- Meaningful use is five year program with three stages; each successive stage involving increased requirements.

**What is the next step?**

- In order to avoid Medicare payment reductions and potential Medicaid payment reductions, it is important for you to ask your current practice location if they have an Eligible Professional Meaningful Use Program.
- Medicare payment reductions will begin in 2015 for eligible providers who do not show that they are meaningful users of an EHR by 2013. These payment reductions will range from 1-5% of the individual provider’s Medicare reimbursement. Meaningful use is a provider-focused program and any fee schedule reductions will follow the individual provider regardless of the location or type of practice (academic or private).
- Colorado Medicaid hasn’t announced any penalties for not participating in meaningful use, but penalties may incur in the future for outpatient clinicians with over 20% Medicaid volume.
- Eventually meaningful use data will likely be published by CMS and it is important to show CMS that you are a meaningful user going forward.

For more information on meaningful use please contact M.U@upicolo.org.