The **Meaningful Use of an EHR**

- EHRs, when used correctly, greatly increase the accuracy of patient data, access to information, and advancement of patient care.

- In order to encourage the adoption of EHRs across the United States, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is now actively enforcing physicians to use an EHR in a meaningful manner through the Meaningful Use (MU) Program.

- MU is part of the HITECH Act within the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

- The purpose of this CMS initiative is to promote the “Meaningful Use” of Electronic Health Records through Medicare & Medicaid incentive payments; designed to recuperate the facility costs spent implementing an EHR.
How will MU affect me?

• Your attending may ask you to support them in their documentation process to become a meaningful user.

• Meaningful use tracks provider performance on 20 objectives & 6 clinical quality measures, determined by CMS, that need to be accurately recorded in the EHR. The objectives and quality measures you will be measured on will vary by institution, depending on menu choices selected by your practice location & your specialty. Examples of mandatory objectives include: e-prescribing, printing clinical summaries, review of the patient’s problem list, etc. A full listing of MU requirements can be found on the CMS website: http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/ Meaningful_Use.html.

• Meaningful use is tracked on patient encounters in an EHR and the best practice is actively meet meaningful use requirements on all of your patient encounters within the EHR.

• Eligible providers who fail to demonstrate MU in the Medicare Program by 2013, will face payment reimbursement deductions ranging from 1-5% of their Medicare fee schedule beginning in 2015. Meaningful use is the future of provider reimbursement and is a foundation to transform healthcare reimbursement models through the achievement & measurement of key CMS quality metrics.

• Providers who are new to the practice of medicine will receive a two-year exemption from the payment adjustment. After two years, it is critical to ask your location of practice if they have a meaningful use program in order to avoid Medicare payment reductions that follow you wherever you practice in the United States.

• For moonlighting fellows, in order to avoid Medicare payment reductions and potential future Medicaid payment reductions, it is important for you to ask your current billing location(s) if they have an Eligible Professional Meaningful Use Program.