

Meaningful Use Audits Start

Meaningful use [audits](#) are under way in Texas, and TMA is receiving calls from members seeking assistance. Figliozi and Company is the designated contractor performing the audits on behalf of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The company offers some guidance for audited practices. Be sure to answer all questions to the best of your ability. One of the documentation requirements is an audit trail from the electronic health record (EHR) software demonstrating that drug formulary or drug allergy checks were enabled for the entire reporting period. Not all EHR vendors have this capability. If that is the case, you can make a statement attesting that your drug formulary checks were enabled for the entire reporting period and that your EHR vendor does not have functionality to provide proof.

The deadline for the initial request of documentation is two weeks. If the auditors consider your answers deficient, they will make a second request with a one-week deadline. Figliozi will extend the deadline upon request, but your second-year payment may be delayed until the audit is finalized. Once the audit ends, you will receive an audit determination letter from Figliozi. If the auditors find you ineligible for the incentive payment, you can appeal.

Be sure to maintain, for at least six years, documentation supporting the meaningful use measures, calculations, and data submitted during attestation. CMS prepared [EHR Incentive Programs Supporting Documentation for Audits](#) to help practices better understand the documentation needed in an audit.

To help physicians with the EHR incentive program complexities, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology established regional extension centers (RECs) to provide onsite health information technology (HIT) consulting in physician practices. For questions about eligibility and REC services, visit the [REC Resource Center](#) on the TMA website.

For more information about meaningful use or other HIT issues, contact TMA's HIT Department by telephone at (800) 880-5720 or by [email](#), or visit the TMA [EHR Incentive Program Resource Center](#).

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