Just a reminder that cut off dates to attest for meaningful use, year 2013 are:

**Medicare** – February 28th 2014  
**Medicaid** – April 20th 2014

**TIPS BEFORE YOU ATTEST:** In addition, there are some simple steps you can take which will help to make the process easier for you:

- Ensure that your payment assignment and other relevant information is up to date in the Medicare payment system PECOS
- Make sure to include a valid email address in your EHR program registration and the correct EHR system is listed
- Log on to the registration and attestation system and ensure that your information is up to date and begin entering your 2013 data

If you need your consultant to help you complete your attestation, please contact Judith at 667-9256 to schedule.

**Meaningful Use CHANGES for 2014**

There are changes for Stage 1 Meaningful Use for year 2014. One of the biggest changes is the *requirement of a patient portal* to meet the following measure:

**New EP Measure (Core Objective):**

- More than 50 percent of all unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period are provided timely (within 4 business days after the information is available to the EP) online access to their health information (not clinical summary but all health information) subject to the EP's discretion to withhold certain information.

**REMEMBER** also it is very important to check with your vendor to confirm they are ONC (2014) certified and that you will be upgraded to the certified version prior to attesting in 2014.
Stage 2 Meaningful Use requires connection to the health information exchange. Connectivity to NC HIE offers secure access to provider electronic health record systems, State systems, pharmacies, labs, behavioral health and long-term care entities, disease registries and other sources of patient data.
To learn more about the NC HIE and get signed up, please visit [http://nchie.org](http://nchie.org) or contact Christy Revels at Christy.Revels@nchie.org or (919) 926-3938.

**E-Rx Program ENDED**
The eRx incentive program for 2013 has ended and providers no longer have to report the G8553 code. However remember that eRx is still required for meaningful use. [Click here for more information on the eRx incentive program.](http://www.aama-ntl.org/continuing-education/abr)

**CMA’s and Order Entry**
As of January 1, 2013, only "credentialed medical assistants" (in addition to licensed health professionals) have been permitted to enter medication, radiology, and laboratory orders into the electronic health record (EHR) and have such entry count toward meeting the meaningful use thresholds under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.

Working medical assistants who have not graduated from a CAAHEP or ABHES accredited medical assisting program are not eligible for the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination, and therefore have had no way of meeting the CMS requirement through the AAMA in the past. Consequently, as the leaders of the medical assisting profession and the AAMA, the Board of Trustees (BOT) realized it was incumbent on them to provide a way for these non-CAAHEP or ABHES medical assistants to demonstrate knowledge of electronic order entry and meet the CMS requirement.

The BOT concluded that the best way to assist these medical assistants would be by awarding an assessment-based recognition to those who meet certain knowledge and experience requirements and complete five AAMA continuing education courses covering key knowledge elements of electronic order entry. [http://www.aama-ntl.org/continuing-education/abr](http://www.aama-ntl.org/continuing-education/abr)
You are invited to attend the

**IPIP/REC Collaborative Meeting**

**Thursday February 20, 2014**

Dinner: 5:30—6:00pm (not a part of the CME program)       Meeting: 6:00-7:30pm

South East Area Health Education Center Pelican Classroom
2511 Delaney Avenue ~ Wilmington, NC

**Purpose:** This activity is designed to enrich the knowledge of providers who participate in the Improving Performance In Practice (IPIP) Program through the Regional Extension Center (REC).

**Target Audience:** Primary Care Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Medical Assistants, Practice Administrators, and community leaders.

**Featured Topics Include:**

- Local Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Update
- New Standards for the Blue Quality Physician Program (BQPP)

**Click Here to Register**

or call 910-667-9256

Space is limited - Sign up early to ensure a seat.