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Town of Cicero Health Department Receives More Than \$20,000 in Meaningful Use Monies

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IPHA's Immunization Billing Project is pleased to announce that the Town of Cicero's Health Department has successfully attested for Stage 1 Meaningful Use under the Medicaid program and received its first payout of incentives (\$21,000)!

The Town of Cicero Health Department began working in November 2015 with **CDP, Inc.**, IPHA's Romeoville, Illinois-based partner on the Immunization Billing Project, to utilize ezEMRx, the electronic health records system that includes complete revenue cycle management. Soon after, it began work to attest for Stage 1 Meaningful Use under the Medicaid program.

Meaningful Use is the use of a certified health information technology (EHRs) to capture patient demographics, health records, and document patient visits following standardized healthcare guidelines. Over time, local health departments complying with Meaningful Use are expected to see improved clinical outcomes and more robust clinical quality metrics providing essential data reporting on their populations. The incentive program for Meaningful Use is broken out into multiple stages, each with different requirements and incentives associated with them.

Tiffany Cole, from the Town of Cicero Health Department, sorted through past paper charts, thus ensuring the health department was able to meet the eligibility criteria of at least 30 percent—a Meaningful Use requirement.

Sue Grazzini, director of the health department, says that "partnering with CDP and ezEMRx for Meaningful Use will make it much easier for us to report on these things in the future."

The incentive money is helping the health department with the costs associated with implementing an electronic health records system.

Grazzini is optimistic that the new implementation of electronic health records and billing will streamline clinical processes and establish quality of care at the health department as she plans to begin attestation for the Stage 2 Meaningful Use incentive program coming up next year.