



September 20, 2011

Dear Meridian Affiliated Podiatrist:

In January of this past year, I announced that Meridian Health was offering its affiliated physicians a subsidy program to assist in the installation of an office-based electronic health record (EHR) that can interface with Meridian's Health Information Exchange (Meridian HIE). Initially, eligible physicians included full-time primary care physicians (i.e., pediatricians, internists, and family practice physicians) and full-time specialty physicians. I am pleased to report that after careful consideration, Meridian will extend the subsidy to affiliated full-time podiatrists who meet the program eligibility requirements. Under the subsidy program, participating podiatrists will be considered specialist physicians.

The extension of this program recognizes your important role in patient care and the need to be appropriately connected to some of your most complex trauma and wound care patients with 24/7 access to patient information and tracking tools for testing, results and follow-up. Over 500 physicians have already expressed interest in Meridian's subsidy program and many offices are on their way toward automating their practices and streamlining communication among various providers.

I encourage you to learn more about the Meridian subsidy program, federal incentives for meeting "meaningful use", and Meridian EHR subsidy options by visiting our EHR Resource Center at www.meridianhealth.com/ehr. Also on this website, you'll find instructions for obtaining web access to the Meridian HIE which currently contains select patient clinical information from all Meridian Hospitals and several of the Meridian long-term care facilities.

Under the Meridian subsidy program, Meridian will provide each eligible full-time podiatrist a subsidy of up to \$8,000 toward the costs of one of our partnering EHR systems. Federal regulations require that subsidy payments be made directly to the EHR vendor and cannot be provided to podiatrists that have an existing EHR which meets meaningful use requirements. For those podiatrists who already have an EHR system, Meridian will provide each eligible podiatrist a subsidy of up to \$2,500 per provider to cover the allowable costs of an interface to connect their EHR system to the Meridian HIE which is currently up and running for certain Meridian Health facilities. In addition, podiatrists may be eligible for additional incentives from the government as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It's important to note that Meridian's subsidy program ends December 31, 2012. For more information, please feel free to call one of the following leaders:

JSUMC	Tim Foley	732-776-4087
OMC	Cindy Lantz	732-836-4345
RMC/BCH	Tony Cava	732-450-2613
SOMC	Joe Hummel	609-978-3814

I encourage you to visit the Meridian EHR Resource Center at www.meridianhealth.com/ehr for the latest information, demonstrations, and full program details. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in the delivery of quality care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John K. Lloyd".

John K. Lloyd, FACHE
President, Meridian Health