

Update on Changes to Meaningful Use

CMS has proposed several changes to Meaningful Use; but, as of the date of this publication, NONE of the proposals are final rules. The proposed rules would include:

1. Changing the reporting period in 2015 to 90 days,
2. Streamlining the program by decreasing the number of measures,
3. Modifying the measures that require action by the patient, and
4. Requiring a full reporting year from 2016 going forward for all but first time participants.

If the proposed 2015 reporting period is approved, it can be any continuous 90-day period rather than requiring reporting periods to be on the quarter. This is an attempt to allow a “catch-up” period to adjust to changes in the measures. Likewise, anyone attesting for the first time in 2016 would report on any continuous 90-day period. All others would report for a full year from 2016 on regardless of stage or reporting year. The following table summarizes pending modifications to current reporting.

Stage 1	<i>Eligible Professionals (EP)</i>	<i>Eligible Hospitals (EH)</i>
	2015 only - Alternate exclusions and specifications	2015-2017 – all report on 8 objectives, 3 public health measures
	2016 – all report on 9 objectives, 2 public health measures	Beginning 2015 eRx from menu to core
	Modifications to patient action – Secure messaging from 5% to fully enabled (yes/no)	
	Beginning 2015 – public health measures become 1 measure with options	
Stage 2	2015-2017 – 9 core objectives, 2 public health options	2015-2017 – 8 core objectives, 3 public health options
Stage 3	7 core measures, 1 menu objective, 3 public health objectives	7 core measures, 1 menu objective, 3 public health objectives
	Starting 2017 – attest to either modified Stage 2 or full version of Stage 3	
	2018 – All attest to Stage 3	

This is an attempt by CMS to streamline Meaningful Use requirements. Regardless of whether an EP or EH is currently in Stage 1 or 2, the proposed rules would mean a reduction in the number of objectives.

Once again, all of this is only proposed at this time and not finalized. You may still comment on the proposed rules. You may submit electronic comments on this regulation to:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=CMS-2015-0045-0001> Follow the “Submit a comment” instructions.

While we wait on final decisions, continue to work to comply with the rules as they stand. Unless you are reporting on MU for the first time in 2015, consider yourself in a full reporting year until we hear otherwise. The staff at WTxHITREC is actively watching the progress of these proposals and will work to keep you abreast of the latest changes. Contact us with any questions or concerns.

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