

EHR Incentive Programs: Clinical Quality Measures in 2014

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently published the final rule for Stage 2 of the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs. The rule provides new criteria that eligible professionals (EPs), eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) must meet to successfully participate in the EHR Incentive Programs, including updates to the clinical quality measure (CQM) requirements.

The final rule establishes that beginning in 2014, the reporting of CQMs will change for all providers, regardless of whether they are participating in Stage 1 or Stage 2. EHR technology certified to the 2014 standards and capabilities will contain new CQM criteria.

In 2014, EPs, eligible hospitals, and CAHs in both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the EHR Incentive Programs must use the new criteria. Reporting on CQMs to demonstrate meaningful use is still a requirement, even though CQM reporting was removed as a core objective.

The table below further outlines the CQM changes in the Stage 2 Final Rule:

Provider	Before 2014	2014 and Beyond
EPs	Complete 6 out of 44 CQMs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 core or 3 alternate core• 3 menu Selected CQMs must cover at least 3 of the National Quality Strategy (NQS) domains	Complete 9 out of 64 CQMs Choose at least 1 measure in 3 NQS domains Recommended core CQMs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 CQMs for the adult population• 9 CQMs for the pediatric population• Prioritize NQS domains
Eligible Hospitals and CAHs	Complete 15 out of 15	Complete 16 out of 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choose at least 1 measure in 3 NQS domains

Reporting CQMs

All Medicare-eligible providers in their second year and beyond of demonstrating meaningful use must electronically report CQM data to CMS, starting in 2014. Medicaid providers will electronically report CQM data to their state.

Resources

For more information on Stage 2, please visit the CMS website at http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Stage_2.html.