

When Do I Start Stage 2 of Meaningful Use?

On August 23, 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 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.

Stage 2 Timeline

In the Stage 1 meaningful use regulations, CMS established a timeline that required providers to progress to Stage 2 criteria following two program years under the Stage 1 criteria. This original timeline would have required Medicare providers who first demonstrated meaningful use in 2011 to meet Stage 2 criteria in 2013. However, CMS delayed the onset of Stage 2 requirements. Now, the earliest that Stage 2 will be effective is fiscal year 2014 for eligible hospitals and CAHs or calendar year 2014 for EPs.

The table below illustrates the progression of meaningful use stages based on the year a Medicare provider begins participation in the program. Note that providers who were early demonstrators of meaningful use in 2011 will meet three consecutive years of meaningful use under the Stage 1 criteria before advancing to the Stage 2 criteria in 2014. All other providers would meet two years of meaningful use under the Stage 1 criteria before advancing to the Stage 2 criteria in their third year.

1 st Year	Stage of Meaningful Use										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2011	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
2012		1	1	2	2	3	3	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
2013			1	1	2	2	3	3	TBD	TBD	TBD
2014				1	1	2	2	3	3	TBD	TBD
2015					1	1	2	2	3	3	TBD
2016						1	1	2	2	3	3
2017							1	1	2	2	3

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

If you have not participated in the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs previously, or if you have never achieved meaningful use under the Stage 1 criteria, please visit the CMS EHR Incentive Programs website www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms for more information about how to take part in the program.