

### Regarding Stage 1 though per the Stage 2 Final Rule:

The Stage 2 Final Rule includes several changes to Stage 1, some of which were effective in 2013, others effective January 1, 2014. This guide sheet will help you prepare for the most significant changes in 2014.

### Exclusions For 2014 Menu Objectives

In 2014, EPs will no longer be permitted to count an exclusion toward the minimum of 5 menu objectives on which they must report if there are other menu objectives which they can select. In other words, a provider cannot select a menu objective and claim an exclusion for it if there are other menu objectives they can meet.

### Record and Chart Changes in Vital Signs

CMS has changed the measure of the objective for recording and charting changes in vital signs for EPs. The revised measure amends that age limit to recording blood pressure for patients **ages 3 and over** and height and weight for patients of **all ages**.

The exclusions for this objective for EPs have also changed. Under the 2014 Stage 1 changes, an EP can claim an exclusion if the EP sees no patients 3 years or older (the EP would not have to record blood pressure), if all three vital signs are not relevant to their scope of practice (the EP would not record any vital signs), if height and weight are not relevant to their scope of practice (the EP would still record blood pressure), or if blood pressure is not relevant to their scope of practice (the EP would still record height and weight).

These changes were optional in 2013 but will be **required in 2014** and beyond.

#### **2014 Measure:**

More than 50 percent of all unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period have blood pressure (for patients age 3 and over only) and height and weight (for all ages) recorded as structured data.

#### **New Exclusion:**

Any EP who

1. Sees no patients 3 years or older is excluded from recording blood pressure;
2. Believes that all three vital signs of height, weight, and blood pressure have no relevance to their scope of practice is excluded from recording them;
3. Believes that height and weight are relevant to their scope of practice, but blood pressure is not, is excluded from recording blood pressure; or
4. Believes that blood pressure is relevant to their scope of practice, but height and weight are not, is excluded from recording height and weight.

## Report Clinical Quality Measures

In **2014**, EPs are still required to report on clinical quality measures in order to achieve meaningful use. CMS has simply removed the standalone core objective that required providers to attest that they plan to report on clinical quality measures because it is redundant. EPs in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program who are beyond their first year of MU will have to electronically submit their CQMs as opposed to submitting by way of attestation. Medi-Cal EHR Incentive Program will **not** be accepting electronically submitted CQMs in 2014. See the 2014 CQM Tipsheet for further information on 2014 CQMs.

## Electronic Copy of and Electronic Access to Health Information

In order to better align Stage 1 objectives with the new 2014 capabilities of Certified EHR Technology, CMS is replacing some Stage 1 objectives (providing electronic copies and electronic access to health information) with a single core objective to provide patients the ability to **view, download, and transmit** their health information online.

The following 2013 Stage 1 objectives **will be changed in 2014**:

- EPs Stage 1 Core Measure: **Electronic Copy of Health Information**; Objective: Provide patients with an electronic copy of their health information (including diagnostics test results, problem list, medication lists, medication allergies, discharge summary, procedures) upon request.
- EP Stage 1 Menu Measure: **Patient Electronic Access**; Objective: Provide patients with timely electronic access to their health information (including lab results, problem list, medication lists, and allergies) within 4 business days of the information being available to the EP.

### **The New 2014 Stage 1 Core Measure - VDT**

- The first measure of the Stage 2 Core Measure 7, “Patient Electronic Access”, is applicable to Stage 1 2014
- aka “View, Download, Transmit” or “VDT”
- Measure 1: More than 50 percent of all unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period are provided timely (available to the patient within 4 business days after the information is available to the EP) online access to their health information.
- Objective: Provide patients the ability to view online, download and transmit their health information within 4 business days of the information being available to the EP.

References/Resources:

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage1ChangesTipsheet.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/downloads/EP-MU-TOC.pdf>

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/ClinicalQualityMeasuresTipsheet.pdf>

[http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/downloads/Stage2\\_EPCore\\_7\\_PatientElectronicAccess.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/downloads/Stage2_EPCore_7_PatientElectronicAccess.pdf)