

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW



Important Date for EPs

As the year draws to a rapid close, EPs are reminded that December 31 marks the end of their 2014 MU reporting period. While you may be looking forward to the big New

Year's Eve party, keep in mind this important deadline. By continuing to demonstrate MU through the end of the CY, you can be eligible for an incentive payment in 2015 AND avoid a Medicare payment adjustment in 2016 (see related article about payment adjustments on p. 2).

2015 Checklist for EPs

While you're writing down your resolutions for the new year, why not put demonstrating MU in 2015 at the top of the list? With the beginning of a new participation year on January 1, 2015, consider how prepared you are:

- Have you checked with your area coordinator to plan for your EHR deployment?
- If you're planning to demonstrate MU for the whole year, are all of the appropriate programs installed so that you'll be ready for the beginning of the FY on January 1, 2015?
- Although EPs don't need to attest for the 2014 program year until February 28, 2015, have you begun preparing your attestation data? Start reviewing reports now to isolate 90 days of data according to the *2014 Flexibility Rule*. (See the September issue of *MU Monthly* for more details.)
- If you are participating in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, do you know your state's attestation deadline?

Begin preparing now to help ensure your success in 2015!

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To suggest a specific topic for the newsletter, email meaningfuluseteam@ihs.gov.

EH ATTESTATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Good News for EHS

CMS has extended the deadline for EHS to register and attest for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program for the 2014 participation year. The new deadline is now **11:59 p.m. ET on December 31, 2014**.

Medicare EHS must successfully complete their attestation by the deadline to receive an incentive payment for the 2014 program year as well as avoid the 2016 Medicare payment adjustment (see related article about payment adjustments on p. 2). EHS participating in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program need to refer to their [state deadlines](#).

The CMS Attestation System is now fully operational and includes the [2014 Certified EHR Technology \(CEHRT\) Flexibility Rule](#) options. Go to <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action> to begin the attestation process.

Attestation Tips

Listed on the next page are a few pointers to help with the attestation process.

Attestation Tips (continued from p. 1)

- Consider logging on to the attestation system during non-peak hours, such as evenings and weekends.
- Log on to the registration and attestation system now to ensure that your information is current.
- Start entering your data in advance rather than waiting until the last day.

PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS: A QUICK OVERVIEW

Any EP, EH, or CAH who is **eligible** to participate in the Medicare CMS EHR Incentive program and who bills Medicare Part B on the Physician Fee Schedule is subject to a Medicare payment adjustment beginning in 2015. This adjustment for EPs consists of a one percent adjustment of Part B claims, potentially rising to five percent in subsequent years. (EHs and CAHs are subject to different amounts. Visit <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfuluse/incentivesoverview/incentivesreduction/>.)

Providers must attest to demonstrating MU **every year** to avoid these payment adjustments. Anyone who is eligible to participate in **both** the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs may demonstrate MU under either Medicare or Medicaid.

Note that the adjustments are based on a two-year look-back period. This means that:

- Providers who failed to demonstrate MU for the 2013 participation year are subject to an adjustment in FY/CY 2015.*
- Providers who fail to demonstrate MU for the 2014 participation year will be subject to an adjustment in FY/CY 2016.* However, it's not too late to avoid these adjustments in 2016: EHs and CAHs have until December 31, 2014, and EPs have until February 28, 2015, to attest.

*The payment schedule for CAHs is different from EHs.

To learn more about payment adjustments, visit <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfulUse/incentivesoverview/incentivesreduction/>.

STAGE ONE AND STAGE TWO PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The end of the year provides an excellent occasion for looking back at what we've accomplished and also for looking forward to what we hope to achieve. With that in mind, take a minute to review the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Performance Measure and CQM requirements as detailed in the Stage 2 Rule. Being familiar with these requirements will make it more likely that you'll be able to attest successfully at the end of your FY/CY.

EPs	Core PMs	Menu Set PMs	CQMs
Stage 1	13	5 of 9	9 CQMs from 3 of 6 NQS domains
Stage 2	17	3 of 6*	9 CQMs from 3 of 6 NQS domains

EHs	Core PMs	Menu Set PMs	CQMs
Stage 1	11	5 of 10	16 CQMs from 3 of 6 NQS domains
Stage 2	16	3 of 6*	16 CQMs from 3 of 6 NQS domains

*RPMS users only have five menu set items from which to choose.

To review other changes that went into effect as of 2014, visit <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfuluse/> or consider registering for training at <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfuluse/resourcesofficehours/>.

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ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR MU NEEDS

National MU consultants are available to assist with your questions regarding MU, participation, eligibility, registration and attestation. See below for the specific consultant assigned to your area or email meaningfuluseteam@ihs.gov.

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MU LISTSERV

Have you registered for the MU Listserv? This mailbox serves as an excellent tool for learning about upcoming trainings, announcements from CMS and more! Sign up today at http://www.ihs.gov/listserv/topics/signup/?list_id=168.



The National MU Team wishes you and your family a happy and healthy new year!