

## CMS EXTENDS EP ATTESTATION DEADLINE

CMS has extended the deadline for EPs to attest to meaningful use for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program 2013 reporting year from February 28, 2014, to March 31, 2014. This extension will allow more time for EPs to submit their data and receive an incentive payment for the 2013 program year as well as avoid the 2015 payment adjustment.

**Note: This extension does not impact the deadlines for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program or any other CMS program. Check with your state's Medicaid agency to confirm your attestation date.**

### EP Attestation Process

To prepare for the Medicare attestation process, EPs must generate a performance measure report and a CQM report for the period to which they want to attest. After generating and validating these reports, EPs can log onto the CMS Registration and Attestation System at <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action> to complete their attestations. Prior to attesting, EPs should ensure that registration has been completed and that logons are still valid and active.

### Resources

Remember: area MU coordinators and national MU consultants are here to help. (See <http://www.ihs.gov/meaningfulUse/resourcesoverview/resourcesstaff/>.)

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Email [meaningfuluseteam@ihs.gov](mailto:meaningfuluseteam@ihs.gov) with topics for the next issue.



## IHS COMPLETES RPMS CERTIFICATION TESTING

As of Tuesday, January 28, IHS successfully completed all testing against the requirements for 2014 EHR Certification. Now, ONC is reviewing all of the documentation submitted by Infoguard, the third-party vendor responsible for verifying the RPMS testing protocols. Once ONC is satisfied that the appropriate requirements have been met, they will issue the formal certification status for the 2014 RPMS EHR.

At that point, the IHS Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) will once again be certified as a complete EHR for inpatient and ambulatory settings, enabling the IHS, tribal, urban (and non-IHS) health care facilities that use the RPMS EHR to continue participating in the CMS Meaningful Use program.

According to Dr. Hays, chief information officer (acting) and director of OIT, "I can't express enough how grateful and proud I am of all of the OIT federal staff and contractors, both on our project teams and with our development partners, for their expertise, commitment, and persistence during this extremely difficult and challenging effort. This is the largest and most complex project with which I have ever been involved, far exceeding 2011 certification."

### Next Steps

While waiting for official certification from ONC, IHS is tackling another large step in the process: internal alpha/beta testing of the RPMS EHR at three sites (White River, Sonoma, and Warm Springs). Testing the system with live data is critical to help ensure that all of the applications are interacting as expected.

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## IHS COMPLETES RPMS CERTIFICATION TESTING (CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

In addition, materials are being created to help support the field, and a weeklong training program will take place in March for MU team members and other health care professionals responsible for MU performance and clinical quality measures.

In recognition of the time needed to install and implement an EHR certified according to the new 2014 standards, CMS has determined that all providers, whether planning to attest to Stage 1 or Stage 2 in 2014, will only need to demonstrate MU for a three-month period. With this stipulation in mind, deployment of the 2014 RPMS EHR will take place once beta testing is finished, with hospitals needing to attest to Stage 2 in 2014 receiving priority.

Thank you for your patience as the process continues to evolve. Be sure to subscribe to the MU Listserv at [http://www.ihs.gov/listserv/topics/signup/?list\\_id=168](http://www.ihs.gov/listserv/topics/signup/?list_id=168) for the latest announcements.

## RADIOLOGY REQUIREMENTS IN STAGE 2

MU Stage 2 requires both EHs and EPs to enter radiology studies as part of computerized provider order entry (CPOE). The specific text reads as follows:

**Objective:** Use computerized provider order entry (CPOE) for medication, laboratory and **radiology** orders directly entered by any licensed healthcare professional who can enter orders into the medical record per state, local and professional guidelines.

**Measure:** More than 60 percent of medication, 30 percent of laboratory, and **30 percent of radiology orders** created by the EP or authorized providers of the EH's or CAH's inpatient or emergency department (POS 21 or 23) during the EHR reporting period are recorded using CPOE.

EPs, however, may qualify for an exclusion in meeting this measure:

**Exclusion (EPs only):** Any EP who writes fewer than 100 medication, radiology, or laboratory orders during the EHR reporting period.

To meet this requirement, facilities will need to use the RPMS Radiology/Nuclear Medicine package (RA) to place radiology orders. Many I/T/U sites are now using the RPMS EHR with the radiology package to place their radiology orders electronically and will meet this requirement once they have installed the soon-to-be released EHR p13 and all associated MU2 patches. However, many sites are not ordering radiology procedures through their EHR's radiology package. To participate in MU2, these sites will need to assess their current installation of the radiology/nuclear medicine package and their current radiology order workflow along with their EHR.

The National Radiology Team is now helping area staff conduct a site-by-site assessment to determine specific needs concerning radiology/nuclear medicine package configuration, implementation, and usage. This step is critical for sites that have not been using the radiology package since various installation issues have been discovered at sites where the package was installed but not implemented.

Once a site's radiology package has been optimized and properly configured for the 2014 certified EHR, they will be able to implement CPOE for radiology orders. The National Radiology Team will coordinate with area staff to organize training and support for these sites. The training will be conducted remotely in cohorts as we move forward.

Sites planning to participate in MU2 that are concerned about their readiness to order radiology studies through the 2014 RPMS EHR should contact their area CAC or MU coordinator to schedule an assessment. Don't wait!