



STATE OF MARYLAND  
**DHMH**

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Eligible Professionals (EPs) Participating in the EHR Incentive Program

**FROM:** Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

**DATE:** December 12, 2013

**RE:** Updates for Meaningful Use Resulting from Stage 2 Final Rule and Details for Public Health Reporting

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This memorandum addresses: the timeline for launch of Stage 2, “Meaningful Use” in Maryland’s Registration and Attestation System (eMIPP); special changes for Program Year 2014; changes to Stage 1 Program Year 2013; changes to Stage 1 Program 2014 and onward; Stage 2 Final Rule Requirements; and Stage 2 Public Health reporting requirements.

**TIMELINE FOR LAUNCH**

From Wednesday, December 18, 2013 after 5:00 P.M. through Friday, December 20, 2013 at 5:00 P.M., Maryland’s EHR Incentive Program Registration and Attestation System, eMIPP, will be unavailable. During this time, Maryland will be updating eMIPP to allow for modifications to “Meaningful Use”, Stages 1 and 2. On Friday, December 20, 2013 after 5:00 P.M., Maryland will allow all eligible providers to register and attest for either adopt, implement, or upgrade (AIU) or for “Meaningful Use” Stage 1 or 2. If you are eligible and have not already attested for Program Year 2013, eligible providers will have until March 31, 2014 to do so.

**SPECIAL CHANGE FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014**

As a result of the Stage 2 Final Rule, regardless of your Stage of or year within MU, everyone participating in Program Year 2014 will have a 90-day reporting period to demonstrate MU.

**CHANGES TO STAGE 1 (PROGRAM YEAR 2013)**

The changes for EPs for Program Year 2013 and onward are as follows:

- Objective 1: ‘use CPOE for medication orders directly entered by any licensed healthcare professional who can enter orders into the medical record per state, local and professional guidelines,’ there will be **an addition of an alternative measure** (this will be **optional** from 2013 and onward).
- Objective 4: to ‘generate and transmit permissible prescriptions electronically (eRx),’ there will be **an additional exclusion** (this will be **required** from 2013 and onward).
- Objective 13: ‘capability to exchange key clinical information (for example, problem list, medication list, medication allergies, and diagnostic test results), among providers of care and patient authorized entities electronically,’ will **no longer be required** from 2013 and onward.
- Regarding the Stage 1 Public Health objective, there will be the **addition of “except where prohibited”** to the objective regulation text for the public health objectives under §495.6 from 2013 and onward. Maryland is accepting all public health test files for the purposes of providers meeting Stage 1 of “Meaningful Use.” Thus, providers must report at least one Public Health objective.

\*Please reference the Stage 1 Changes table for full information and details at:

<https://mmcp.dhmd.maryland.gov/ehr/SitePages/Eligible%20Provider%20and%20Eligible%20Hospital%20Updates%20for%20Meaningful%20Use%20Resulting%20from%20Stage%202%20Final%20Rule.aspx>

## **CHANGES TO STAGE 1 (PROGRAM YEAR 2014 AND ONWARD)**

The changes for EPs for Program Year 2014 and onward are as follows:

- Objective 8: ‘record and chart changes in vital signs,’ there will be **the addition of age limitations on height, weight and blood pressure and a change in age and splitting the EP exclusion** (this is **optional** in 2013; however, will be **required** from 2014 and onward).
- Objective 12: ‘provide patients with an electronic copy of their health information (including diagnostics test results, problem list, medications lists, medication allergies, discharge summary, procedures) upon request,’ patients will now be able **to access and have the ability to view online , download, and transmit their health information**, after discharge. There is also a required Stage 1 Policy Change for year 2014 and onward. Now, meeting an exclusion for a menu set objective **does not** count towards the number of menu set objectives that must be satisfied to meet meaningful use. 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.

\*Please reference the Stage 1 Changes table for full information and details at:

<https://mmcp.dhmd.maryland.gov/ehr/SitePages/Eligible%20Provider%20and%20Eligible%20Hospital%20Updates%20for%20Meaningful%20Use%20Resulting%20from%20Stage%202%20Final%20Rule.aspx>

## **STAGE 2 FINAL RULE REQUIREMENTS**

Under the Stage 1 criteria, EPs had to meet 14 core objectives and 5 menu objectives that they selected from a total list of 10.

### **In order to demonstrate meaningful use (MU) under Stage 2 criteria:**

- EPs must meet 17 core objectives and 3 menu objectives that they select from a total list of 6, or a total of 20 core objectives.

### **New Stage 2 Core Objectives:**

- Use secure electronic messaging to communicate with patients on relevant health information (for EPs only).
- Stage 2 also replaces the previous Stage 1 objectives to provide electronic copies of health information or discharge instructions and provide timely access to health information with objectives that allow patients to access their health information.

### **Stage 2 Patient Access Objectives:**

- Provide patients the ability to view online, download and transmit their health information within four business days of the information being available to the EP (for EPs only).

### **New Stage 2 Menu Objectives:**

- Record electronic notes in patient records.
- Imaging results accessible through CEHRT.
- Record patient family health history.
- Identify and report cancer cases to a State cancer registry (for EPs only).
- Identify and report specific cases to a specialized registry (other than a cancer registry) (for EPs only).

## **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTING MEANINGFUL USE REQUIREMENTS FOR STAGE 2**

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will continue to accept the Immunization public health objective; however, we will not be accepting Syndromic Surveillance for EPs.

For detailed information on Stage 2 Objectives and Measures resulting from the Stage 2 Final Rule, please visit:

<https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/ehr/SitePages/Eligible%20Provider%20and%20Eligible%20Hospital%20Updates%20for%20Meaningful%20Use%20Resulting%20from%20Stage%202%20Final%20Rule.aspx>

For further information on Stage 2 Objectives and Measures, please reference the following CMS website: [http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Stage\\_2.html](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Stage_2.html)

Thank you for your patience and your commitment to improving the quality of health care in Maryland.

Regards,

EHR Incentive Program Team

Website: <http://mmcp.dhmf.maryland.gov/ehr/SitePages/Home.aspx>

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