

Overview of Meaningful Use for Wisconsin's Local Health Departments



Background

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) introduced the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs to encourage the adoption of electronic health records (EHR) and to improve clinical outcomes. These programs are commonly referred to as Meaningful Use because they are tied to “meaningful use” of federally certified EHR technologies (CEHRT). Providers demonstrate meaningful use by adopting CEHRT and meeting objectives that are defined by CMS. The program targets two groups of providers: Eligible Professionals and Eligible Hospitals (including Critical Access Hospitals).

Meaningful Use is divided into three stages, each with a different focus and different mandatory “core” objectives and optional “menu set” objectives. Eligible Professionals and Eligible Hospitals have different objectives for each stage. Each stage also includes public health reporting objectives, which will increase the information that public health programs receive. This is intended to strengthen public health programs by improving their capacity for disease surveillance and disease prevention.

Eligibility

Clinical staff at local health departments that provide health services for either Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries and receive payments from Medicare or Medicaid may be eligible to participate in either the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Under the Medicare program, physicians are eligible. Under the Medicaid program, physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and certain physician assistants are eligible if at least 30 percent of their patient volume is enrolled in Title 19 Medicaid. Medicare payment reductions will begin in 2015 for providers who are eligible for the Medicare Incentive Program but decide not to participate. Eligible Professionals who meet the Meaningful Use requirements could receive up to \$63,750. To participate, the Eligible Professional has to use CEHRT.

Stages 1 and 2 Public Health Objectives

All public health objectives are subject to the public health agency’s capacity to receive the data and to applicable state and local law. Stage 3 objectives have not been finalized.

Stage 1 Public Health Objectives

Stage 1 public health objectives are all menu set objectives; however, providers must choose at least one. A provider meets a Stage 1 objective by conducting a test of electronic data transmission with the public health program. Providers are expected to establish ongoing data submission if the test is successful.

Stage 2 Public Health Objectives

Stage 2 public health objectives are a mix of core and menu set objectives. For Stage 2, providers are required to register with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health (DPH), within 60 days of the beginning of their EHR reporting period. Stage 2 promotes ongoing data submission, which is the ability of a provider to regularly report data from its CEHRT to a public health program using the Program Year 2014 standards and specifications for the entire reporting period.

A provider can meet the ongoing data submission requirement by registering with DPH within 60 days of the start of their EHR reporting period and meeting one of the following:

- Achieve ongoing data submission in Stage 1 and satisfy the Stage 2 Meaningful Use technical standards and specifications for ongoing data submission.
- Achieve ongoing data submission during Stage 2.
- Be in the process of achieving ongoing data submission at the end of Stage 2.

- Be in a queue awaiting an invitation from DPH to begin the onboarding process.

A provider will not meet the ongoing data submission requirement if they fail to do the following:

- Register with DPH within 60 days of the start of their EHR reporting period.
- Respond within 30 calendar days to requests by DPH for action on two separate occasions.

Summary of Stage 1 and Stage 2 Public Health Meaningful Use Objectives for Wisconsin Providers

Public Health Objective	Stage 1		Stage 2	
	Eligible Professionals	Eligible Hospitals	Eligible Professionals	Eligible Hospitals
Immunizations: DPH is accepting data sent to the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)	Menu	Menu	Core	Core
Reportable Lab Results: DPH is accepting data through the State Lab of Hygiene.	N/A	Menu	N/A	Core
Syndromic Surveillance: DPH is accepting data sent directly to BioSense 2.0 or via WISHIN to BioSense 2.0. DPH can only accept data from certain Eligible Professionals, but all are encouraged to register.	Menu	Menu	Menu	Core
Cancer: DPH is accepting data through the Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS).	N/A	N/A	Menu	N/A
Specialized Registry: DPH has not identified any specialized registries ready to receive clinical data electronically from CEHRT.	N/A	N/A	Menu	N/A

What is the role of the Wisconsin Division of Public Health?

DPH currently has four roles in Meaningful Use:

- 1) Publicize the capacity of DPH public health programs to receive data.
- 2) Register providers.
- 3) Onboard providers.
- 4) Acknowledge test data submission and ongoing data submission when achieved.

What is the role of Wisconsin Local Health Departments?

Please join DPH in helping providers meet these public health objectives, including providers within your department if applicable. With your support, providers can strengthen Wisconsin’s public health programs while achieving some of their Meaningful Use objectives. Your role is to guide Meaningful Use participants to DPH’s Public Health Meaningful Use website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ehealth/PHMU/index.htm. This website contains information about how to register with DPH public health programs, as well as up-to-date information about DPH program capacity to receive data from providers.

If providers in your community have specific questions that are not answered on the website, they can email DHS eHealth at ehealth@wisconsin.gov. You can also send your questions or concerns about Meaningful Use to DHS eHealth at ehealth@wisconsin.gov.

Resources:

- <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ehealth/PHMU/index.htm>
- <http://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/meaningful-use-definition-objectives>
- <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/index.html>