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In October 2015, CMS released the Meaningful Use Final Rule for years 2015-2017.

Stage 1 eligible professionals are now required to meet Objectives 6, 8, and 9 to demonstrate Meaningful Use in 2015. Previously, Objective 6 was optional; Objectives 8 and 9 were only applicable to Stage 2 eligible professionals.

Stage 2 eligible professionals must take notice of changes in bold to Objectives 6, 8 and 9.

To view a table of all three objectives and suggested documentation to comply with the rule, please visit crisphealth.org.

Objective 6: Patient-Specific Education

Objective 6 requires eligible professionals to provide patient-specific educational resources, for more than ten percent of all unique patients with office visits, seen by the eligible professional during the EHR reporting period, *identified by your EHR*. Educational materials can be provided electronically or by using a paper-based method.

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 1 in 2015 may claim exclusion from Objective 6 if they did not intend to select the equivalent menu objective in Stage 1.

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 2 in 2015 must meet this measure or claim exclusion if they did not have any office visits during the reporting period.

Objective 8: Patient Electronic Access (View, Download, and Transmit)

There are two measures to meet Objective 8 in 2015:

- (1) More than 50 percent of all unique patients seen by the eligible professional during the reporting period are provided timely access to view on-line, download, and transmit to a third party their health information; and
- (2) **At least one patient views on-line, downloads or transmits to a third party their health information.**

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 1 in 2015 must meet the first measure of Objective 8 and may claim exclusion for the second measure because there is no equivalent measure in Stage 1.

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 2 in 2015 must meet the measures or claim applicable exclusions.

Objective 9: Secure Messaging

Objective 9 requires eligible professionals to **fully enable the capability for patients to send and receive a secure electronic message during the EHR reporting period.**

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 1 in 2015 may claim exclusion from Objective 9 because there is no equivalent measure in Stage 1.

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 2 in 2015 must meet the measure or claim exclusion if applicable.

A five-issue series will discuss the ten objectives that all eligible providers must meet for demonstrating Meaningful Use in 2015.

To view more information regarding program requirements for 2015, please visit the CMS Meaningful Use website.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our Meaningful Use Support team at 877-952-7477

You can also email support@crisphealth.org.