



Meaningful Use

Meaningful Use Stage Two: Many Changes Set the Bar Higher

By Kurt Andrews, PhD

The much anticipated final rules for meaningful use (MU) stage 2 have finally been issued. Taken together, the two final rules generally raise the bar on provider use of electronic health records (EHRs) to qualify for incentive payments and on needed EHR capabilities. The final stage 2 rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) builds on the base established in stage 1 for what providers need to do to become “meaningful users” of EHRs. While some believe a low bar was set in stage 1, the criteria nevertheless have helped drive EHR adoption and also helped providers garner some \$6.6 billion in incentive payments. The companion rule, from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), sets stage 2 standards, certification criteria and implementation specifications for EHR technology.

Summaries for both rules are widely available, including a high-level overview in a Point-of-Care Partners (POCP) [blog post](#). As expected, stage 1 menu items became core items and thresholds were raised in other instances. In fact, few criteria remained exactly the same. Moreover, the final rules contain an incredible amount of nuanced complexities...

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Medication Reconciliation

Electronic Medication Reconciliation: an Underutilized Resource to Help Fight the Battle over Health Care Costs

By Mihir Patel, PharmD

Unless you’ve been shipwrecked on a desert island without Internet access, you can’t help but notice that both presidential campaigns are focusing a lot of time and energy on slashing future health care spending. Although it is not on the political bean counters’ radar, electronic medication reconciliation (eMedRec) is a resource that is gaining traction for reducing medication errors...

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Blog Roundup

Breaking News, Industry Highlights Available in POCP Blog

If you aren’t a regular reader of the [blog](#) on the Point-of-Care Partners (POCP) [website](#), you’re missing unique insights on newsworthy items as they happen. The blog isn’t meant to replace the longer and more analytical pieces that we write for [HIT Perspectives](#). They are yet another way POCP provides value — by alerting readers to late-breaking news and events as well as offering alternative views of what’s happening in the media, health information technology, government and the health care industry. Check them out!

Here’s a summary of some recent posts to whet your appetite:

- **From tool caddy to cabinet: Surescripts raises its bet on health information exchange (HIE).** The Internet was abuzz...

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