

# Electronic Health Records Incentive Program: Secure Messaging for Meaningful Use

**Providers attesting to Meaningful Use (MU) in 2017 must meet the new thresholds for MU Objectives.** The most commonly failed Objectives are those pertaining to the Secure Messaging Portal (Objectives 8 and 9 for Modified Stage 2 and Objective 5 for Stage 3). Please see below for new guidance on these Objectives.

**Timely access to health information (Objective 8 for Modified Stage 2 or Object 5 for Stage 3):**

### **Modified Stage 2 – Objective 8**

- **Measure 1:** More than 50% of unique patients seen by the Eligible Professional (EP) in the EHR Attestation Reporting Period are provided timely access to view online, download, and transmit to a third party their health information subject to the EP's discretion to withhold certain information.
- **Measure 2:** More than 5% of unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR Reporting period view, download or transmit to a third party their health information during the EHR reporting period.

### **Stage 3 – Objective 5**

**Measure 1:** For more than 80% of all unique patients seen by the EP:

- 1.) The patient is provided timely access to view online, download, and transmit his or her health information; and
- 2.) The provider ensures the patient's health information is available for the patient to access using any application of their choice that is configured to meet the technical specifications of the Application Programming Interface (API) in the provider's CEHRT.

**Measure 2:** The EP must use clinically relevant information from CEHRT to identify patient-specific educational resources and provide electronic access to those materials to more than 35 percent of unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period.

### **Patient Secure Messaging (Objective 9 for Modified Stage 2):**

- **Measures:** For more than 5% unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period, a secure message was sent using the electronic messaging function of the CEHRT to the patient, or in response to a secure message sent by the patient during the EHR reporting period.

Please see the CMS Website for more information on [Objective 8](#) and [Objective 9](#) for Modified Stage 2 or [Objective 5](#) for Stage 3.

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