

## **Alternative Measures and Exclusions will be available to Eligible Professionals who are scheduled to attest to Meaningful Use Stage 1 under the new program requirements (Modified Stage 2).**

**Purpose of Communication:** Inform Eligible Professionals (EPs) who were scheduled to attest to Stage 1 of the accommodations of alternate exclusions and specifications for program year 2015.

**Target Audience:** EPs scheduled to attest to Stage 1 2015 of the EHR Incentive Program.

For Eligible Professionals (EPs) who are attesting after December 14, 2015, and who were scheduled to attest to MU Stage 1, there are alternative exclusions and specifications available for certain objectives. These alternatives are intended to support providers who may not have otherwise been able to meet the new Modified Stage 2 criteria because they were not scheduled to attest to MU Stage 2 and therefore require the implementation of certified EHR technology beyond the functions that were required for Stage 1. These include:

- **Using a lower threshold for certain measures.**

These measures include:

- Clinical Decision Support: Implementing one clinical decision support.
- Computerized Provider Order: 30% threshold for CPOE.
- Electronic Prescribing: 40% threshold for all permissible prescriptions written by EP that are transmitted electronically using CEHRT.
- Public Health Reporting: Providers may meet 1 public health measure.

- **Excluding for Stage 2 measures in 2015 for which there is no Stage 1 equivalent.** These exclusions include:

- CPOE: Exclusions from Laboratory and Radiology measures.
- Health Information Exchange: Exclusion from the measure because there is no Stage 1 equivalent.
- Medication Reconciliation: Optional exclusion from the measure if the EP did not intend to select the Stage 1 Medication Reconciliation menu objective.
- Patient Specific Education: Optional exclusion from the measure if the EP did not intend to select the Stage 1 Patient Specific Education menu objective.
- Patient Electronic Access: Optional exclusion available for measure 2 because there is no Stage 1 equivalent.
- Secure Messaging: Exclusion from the measure because there is no Stage 1 equivalent.
- Public Health Reporting: Optional exclusions are available for measures if the EP did not intend to select the equivalent prior menu objectives.

These alternative measures and exclusions are available to EPs who are scheduled to attest to Stage 1. This may include EPs who are attesting to the program for the first time, EPs who have only attested to AIU and are moving to Stage 1 Meaningful Use for the first time, or EPs who have attested to their first year of Stage 1 Meaningful Use and can attest to an additional year at Stage 1.

### **Unsure which stage you are scheduled to attest to for Program Year 2015?**

Please contact the EHR Helpdesk and ask to confirm the stage you are scheduled for. The helpdesk can be reached at 1-855-313-6638, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm EST or email [ctmedicaid-ehr@hpe.com](mailto:ctmedicaid-ehr@hpe.com).

For Eligible Professionals scheduled to attest to Stage 2 in 2015, these alternative measures and exclusions do not apply, except for the Public Health Reporting Option where alternate exclusions are available.

**Key Words for Cataloging:** Alternative Measures, Alternative Exclusions, Program Requirements 2015

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**Date Posted by Hewlett Packard Enterprise:** 12/8/15

**For more information on alternative measures and exclusions, please visit:**

[https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2015\\_AlternateExclusionsandSpecifications.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2015_AlternateExclusionsandSpecifications.pdf)

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/2015ProgramRequirements.html>

[https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2015\\_EPAttestationWorksheet.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/2015_EPAttestationWorksheet.pdf)

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