Promoting Interoperability
PROGRAMS

2019 MEDICARE PROMOTING INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE HOSPITALS AND CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

Health Information Exchange Objective Fact Sheet

On August 2, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Fiscal Year 2019 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System for Acute Care Hospitals and Long-term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System Final Rule. In the rule, CMS overhauled the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program to achieve the following:

- Advance certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT) utilization
- Reduce burden
- Improve interoperability and patient access to health information

The rule finalized a new performance-based scoring methodology with a smaller set of four objectives:

1. Electronic Prescribing
2. Health Information Exchange
3. Provider to Patient Exchange
4. Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange

CMS also reiterated that beginning with the EHR reporting period in calendar year (CY) 2019, participants in the Promoting Interoperability Programs are required to use the 2015 Edition of CEHRT. For more information on 2015 Edition CEHRT, review this fact sheet.

The information included in this fact sheet pertains to the Health Information Exchange objective for the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program in CY 2019.

Health Information Exchange Objective: The eligible hospital or CAH provides a summary of care record when transitioning or referring their patient to another setting of care, receives or retrieves a summary of care record upon the receipt of a transition or referral or upon the first patient encounter with a new patient, and incorporates summary of care information from other providers into their EHR using the functions of CEHRT.

Measures

Measure 1: Support Electronic Referral Loops by Sending Health Information (formerly known as the Send a Summary of Care measure)

- **Measure description**: For at least one transition of care or referral, the eligible hospital or critical access hospital (CAH) that transitions or refers their patient to another setting of care or provider of care: (1) creates a summary of care record using CEHRT; and (2) electronically exchanges the summary of care record.
- **Exclusion**: Not available in 2019.
- **Maximum points available for this measure:** 20 points.

Measure 2: Support Electronic Referral Loops by Receiving and Incorporating Health Information

- **Measure description**: For at least one electronic summary of care record received for patient encounters during the EHR reporting period for which an eligible hospital or CAH was the receiving party of a transition of care or referral, or for patient encounters during the EHR reporting period in which the eligible hospital or CAH has never before encountered the patient, the eligible hospital or CAH conducts clinical information reconciliation for medication, medication allergy, and current problem list.
- **Exclusion:** An exclusion is available for this measure in 2019 as it may not be available or fully developed by a user's health IT vendor, or not fully implemented in time for an EHR reporting period in 2019.
- **Maximum points available for this measure:** 20 points.

Scoring

Objective	Measures	CY 2019 Exclusion Available	Maximum Points Available in CY 2019
Health Information Exchange	Support Electronic Referral Loops by Sending Health Information	No	20
	Support Electronic Referral Loops by Receiving and Incorporating Health Information	Yes	20*

*If an exclusion is claimed for the Support Electronic Referral Loops by Receiving and Incorporating Health Information measure in CY 2019, the 20 points would be redistributed to the other measure within this objective, the Support Electronic Referral Loops by Sending Health Information measure, which would be worth up to 40 points.

Additional Resources

For more information on the Health Information Exchange objective and other Medicare program requirements for 2019, visit:

- Promoting Interoperability Programs Landing Page
- 2019 Medicare Program Requirements webpage
- Scoring, Payment Adjustment, and Hardship Information webpage
- FY 2019 IPPS and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Overview Fact Sheet
- 2019 Medicare Specification Sheets
- 2015 Edition CEHRT Fact Sheet