



Public Health Registry Tipsheet

Last Updated: July 2014

As participants in the EHR Incentive Programs, providers will need to report at least one meaningful use menu objective from the public health list in Stage 1, and in Stage 2 will be required to submit several core objectives. Requirements include submitting data to an immunization registry, submitting data to a syndromic surveillance database, and submitting reportable lab results to a public health agency (for hospitals only).

If providers are authorized to submit the data, they should do so even if it is not required by either law or practice. If the test of submission is successful, providers should institute regular reporting with the entity with whom the successful test was conducted.

Please note that meaningful use objectives do not supersede local, state, or federal requirements or each public health registry's requirements.

Stage 1 vs Stage 2 Public Health Requirements

In Stage 1 of meaningful use, public health requirements are included in the menu objectives.

In Stage 2 of meaningful use, some of the Stage 1 public health menu objectives become core objectives and new public health reporting requirements are added to the menu objectives.

Objective	Menu/Core	Stage 1 Measure	Stage 2 Measure
Capability to submit electronic data to immunization registries or Immunization Information Systems and actual submission except where prohibited and in accordance with applicable law and practice	Stage 1: Menu objective (All) Stage 2: Core objective (All)	Performed at least one test of certified EHR technology's capacity to submit electronic data to immunization registries and follow up submission if the test is successful (unless none of the immunization registries to which the eligible professional submits such information have the capacity to receive the information electronically)	Successful ongoing submission of electronic immunization data from certified EHR technology to an immunization registry or immunization information system for the entire EHR reporting period
Capability to submit electronic syndromic	Stage 1: Menu objective (All)	Performed at least one test of certified EHR technology's	Successful ongoing submission of electronic

Objective	Menu/Core	Stage 1 Measure	Stage 2 Measure
surveillance data to public health agencies and actual submission except where prohibited and in accordance with applicable law and practice	Stage 2: Menu objective (Eligible professionals) Core objective (Eligible hospitals)	capacity to provide electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies and follow-up submission if the test is successful (unless none of the public health agencies to which an eligible professional, eligible hospital or CAH submits such information have the capacity to receive the information electronically)	syndromic surveillance data from certified EHR technology to a public health agency for the entire EHR reporting period
Capability to submit electronic data on reportable (as required by state or local law) lab results to public health agencies and actual submission except where prohibited and in accordance with applicable law and practice	Stage 1: Menu objective (Eligible hospitals) Stage 2: Core Objective (Eligible hospitals)	Performed at least one test of certified EHR technology's capacity to provide electronic submission of reportable lab results to public health agencies and follow-up submission if the test is successful (unless none of the public health agencies to which eligible hospital or CAH submits such information have the capacity to receive the information electronically)	Successful ongoing submission of electronic reportable laboratory results from Certified EHR Technology to public health agencies for the entire EHR reporting period as authorized, and in accordance with applicable State law and practice
Capability to identify and report cancer cases to a state cancer registry, except where prohibited, and in accordance with applicable law and practice	Stage 1: N/A Stage 2: Menu objective (Eligible professionals)	New measure for Stage 2	Successful ongoing submission of cancer case information from certified EHR technology to a cancer registry for the entire EHR reporting period
Capability to identify and report specific cases to a specialized registry (other than a cancer registry), except where prohibited, and in accordance with applicable law and practice	Stage 1: N/A Stage 2: Menu objective (Eligible professionals)	New measure for Stage 2	Successful ongoing submission of specific case information from certified EHR technology to a specialized registry for the entire EHR reporting period

What Are the Steps for Reporting Public Health Measures?

The steps in Stage 1 and Stage 2 are listed below:

Stage 1

Year 1:

1. Select at least one public health menu objective
2. Perform test of certified EHR technology's capacity to submit electronic data, and follow-up submission if that test is successful.

Year 2 (and Year 3 if Applicable):

- Submit data on an ongoing basis **OR**
- Show evidence of action taken that demonstrates both that another test is not beneficial in moving towards follow-up submission and that follow-up submission is not possible in year 2 (and year 3 if applicable).

Stage 2

1. Report core public health objectives
2. Select menu public health objectives (optional)
3. Meet any one of the four criteria under the umbrella of ongoing submission:
 - Ongoing submission was already achieved for an EHR reporting period in a prior year and continues throughout the current EHR reporting period.
 - Registration with the public health agency or other body to whom the information is being submitted of intent to initiate ongoing submission was made by the deadline (within 60 days of the start of the EHR reporting period) and ongoing submission was achieved.
 - Registration of intent to initiate ongoing submission was made by the deadline and the EP or hospital is still engaged in testing and validation of ongoing electronic submission.
 - Registration of intent to initiate ongoing submission was made by the deadline and the EP or hospital is awaiting invitation to begin testing and validation.

Note: Providers that meet the last two of these general public health criteria would not have achieved ongoing submission during their EHR reporting period. In addition, providers that meet the second criteria may not have ongoing submission for their entire EHR reporting period. In order to meet the measure, providers who have been invited by the public health agency to begin the onboarding process must participate in that process. Providers who fail to participate in the onboarding process as demonstrated by failure to respond to the public health agency's written requests for action within 30 days on two separate occasions during their EHR reporting period would not meet the measure.

Frequently Asked Questions

If an eligible professional or hospital attesting to meaningful use submits a successful test to the immunization registry in year 1 of Stage 1 and engages with the immunization registry in year 2, but does not achieve ongoing submission of data to the immunization registry during their reporting period in year 1 or year 2, should they attest to the measure or the exclusion?

The Stage 1 meaningful use measure requires the eligible professional or hospital to perform at least one test of certified EHR technology's capacity to submit electronic data to immunization registries, and follow-up submission if that test is successful. An eligible professional or hospital that can demonstrate engagement with the immunization registry during year 2 would attest to meeting the measure even if that engagement was not in the form of another test. It is not acceptable to use the test from year 1 to meet the measure for year 2. The provider needs to show evidence of action taken during year 2 that demonstrates both that another test is not beneficial in moving towards follow-up submission and that follow-up submission is not possible in year 2. This principle applies to all of the public health objectives.

[FAQ #8910](#)

If multiple eligible professionals are using the same certified EHR technology across several physical locations to submit data to public health agencies, can a single test or onboarding effort serve to meet the measures of these objectives?

Providers within the same organization that use the same certified EHR technology and share a network for which their organization either has operational control of or license to use can conduct one test or one single effort to register and onboard all providers in the organization. [FAQ #3819](#)

How should eligible professionals select public health menu objectives for the EHR Incentive Programs?

Eligible professionals participating in Stage 1 must choose at least one option from the public health menu set. If an eligible professional is able to meet the measure of one of the public health menu objectives but can be excluded from the other, the eligible professional should select and report the public health objective they are able to meet.

If an eligible professional can be excluded from both public health menu objectives, the EP should claim an exclusion from only one public health objective and report on four additional menu objectives from outside the public health menu set. [FAQ #2903](#)