



Eligible Professional Meaningful Use Core Measures Measure 3 of 13

Stage 1 (2014 Definition)
Last updated: May 2014

Maintain Problem List	
Objective	Maintain an up-to-date problem list of current and active diagnoses.
Measure	More than 80 percent of all unique patients seen by the EP have at least one entry or an indication that no problems are known for the patient recorded as structured data.
Exclusion	No exclusion.

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Definition of Terms

Problem List – A list of current and active diagnoses as well as past diagnoses relevant to the current care of the patient.

Unique Patient – If a patient is seen by an EP more than once during the EHR reporting period, then for purposes of measurement that patient is only counted once in the denominator for the measure. All the measures relying on the term “unique patient” relate to what is contained in the patient’s medical record. Not all of this information will need to be updated or even be needed by the provider at every patient encounter. This is especially true for patients whose encounter frequency is such that they would see the same provider multiple times in the same EHR reporting period.

Up-to-date – The term “up-to-date” means the list is populated with the most recent diagnosis known by the EP. This knowledge could be ascertained from previous records, transfer of information from other providers, diagnosis by the EP, or querying the patient.

Attestation Requirements

NUMERATOR / DENOMINATOR

- DENOMINATOR: Number of unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period.

- **NUMERATOR:** Number of patients in the denominator who have at least one entry or an indication that no problems are known for the patient recorded as structured data in their problem list.

The resulting percentage (Numerator ÷ Denominator) must be more than 80 percent in order for an EP to meet this measure.

Additional Information

- The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs do not specify the use of ICD-9 or SNOMED-CT® in meeting the measure for this objective. However, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has adopted ICD-9 or SNOMED-CT® for the entry of structured data for this measure and made this a requirement for EHR technology to be certified. Therefore, EPs will need to maintain an up-to-date problem list of current and active diagnoses using ICD-9 or SNOMED-CT® as a basis for the entry of structured data into certified EHR technology in order to meet the measure for this objective.
- For patients with no current or active diagnoses, an entry must still be made to the problem list indicating that no problems are known.
- An EP is not required to update the problem list at every contact with the patient. The measure ensures the EP has a problem list for patients seen during the EHR reporting period, and that at least one piece of information is presented to the EP. The EP can then use their judgment in deciding what further probing or updating may be required given the clinical circumstances.
- The initial diagnosis can be recorded in lay terms and later converted to standard structured data or can be initially entered using standard structured data.

Certification and Standards Criteria

Below is the corresponding certification and standards criteria for electronic health record technology that supports achieving the meaningful use of this objective.

Certification Criteria*

§170.314(a)(5) Problem list

Enable a user to electronically record, change, and access a patient's problem list:

- (i) Ambulatory setting. Over multiple encounters in accordance with, at a minimum, the version of the standard specified in §170.207(a)(3); or
- (ii) Inpatient setting. For the duration of an entire hospitalization in accordance with, at a minimum, the version of the standard specified in §170.207(a)(3).

*Additional certification criteria may apply. Review the [ONC 2014 Edition EHR Certification Criteria Grid Mapped to Meaningful Use Stage 1](#) for more information.

Standards Criteria

§170.207(a)(3)

IHTSDOSNOMED CT® International Release, July 2012; and US Extension to SNOMED CT,® March 2012.

