



# Eligible Hospital and Critical Access Hospital Meaningful Use Core Measures Measure 12 of 13

Stage 1  
Last Updated: April 2013

Electronic Copy of Discharge Instructions	
<b>Objective</b>	Provide patients with an electronic copy of their discharge instructions at time of discharge, upon request.
<b>Measure</b>	More than 50 percent of all patients who are discharged from an eligible hospital or CAH's inpatient or emergency department (POS 21 or 23) and who request an electronic copy of their discharge instructions are provided it.
<b>Exclusion</b>	Any eligible hospital or CAH that has no requests from patients or their agents for an electronic copy of the discharge instructions during the EHR reporting period.

## Table of Contents

- Definition of Terms
- Attestation Requirements
- Additional Information
- Related Meaningful Use FAQs
- Certification and Standards Criteria

## Definition of Terms

**Discharge Instructions** – Any directions that the patient must follow after discharge to attend to any residual conditions that need to be addressed personally by the patient, home care attendants, and other clinicians on an outpatient basis.

## Attestation Requirements

### NUMERATOR / DENOMINATOR

- **DENOMINATOR:** Number of patients discharged from an eligible hospital's or CAH's inpatient or emergency department (POS 21 or 23) who request an electronic copy of their discharge instructions during the EHR reporting period.
- **NUMERATOR:** The number of patients in the denominator who are provided an electronic copy of discharge instructions.
- **EXCLUSION:** An eligible hospital or CAH that has no requests from patients or their agents for an electronic copy of their discharge instructions during the EHR reporting period they would be excluded from this requirement. Eligible hospitals or CAHs must enter '0' in the Exclusion box to attest to exclusion from this requirement.

The resulting percentage (Numerator ÷ Denominator) must be more than 50 percent in order for an eligible hospital or CAH to meet this measure.

## Additional Information

- The provider is permitted, but not required, to limit the measure of this objective to those patients whose records are maintained using certified EHR technology.
- Information that must be provided electronically is limited to that information that exists electronically in or is accessible from the certified EHR technology and is maintained by or on behalf of the eligible hospital or CAH.
- Discharge instructions themselves in the form of electronic media or instructions on how to access instructions electronically should be furnished at the time of discharge from the eligible hospital or CAH.
- A provider may withhold information from the electronic copy of discharge information in accordance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule, as specified at 45 CFR 164.524.
- Form and format should be human readable and comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule, as specified at 45 CFR 164.524(c). The media could be any electronic form such as patient portal, PHR, CD, USB fob, etc.

## Related Meaningful Use FAQs

To see the FAQs, click the New ID # hyperlinks below, or visit the CMS FAQ web page at <https://questions.cms.gov/> and enter the New ID # into the Search Box, clicking the “FAQ #” option to view the answer to the FAQ. (Or you can enter the OLD # into the Search Box and click the “Text” option.)

- What do the numerators and denominators mean in measures that are required to demonstrate meaningful use? [New ID #2813](#), [Old ID #10095](#)
- Does an eligible hospital have to count patients admitted to both the inpatient and emergency departments in the denominator of meaningful use measures, or can they count only emergency department patients? [New ID #3067](#), [Old ID #10468](#)
- If an eligible CAH has a rehabilitation unit or a psychiatric unit that is part of the inpatient department and that bills under Place of Service (POS) code 21, but that is excluded from the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS), should patients from these units be included in the denominator for the measures of meaningful use objectives? [New ID #3213](#), [Old ID #10591](#)
- How should patients in swing beds be counted in the denominators of meaningful use measures for eligible hospitals CAHs? [New ID #3259](#), [Old ID #10640](#)

## 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

<b>§170.306(e) Electronic copy of discharge instructions</b>	Enable a user to create an electronic copy of the discharge instructions for a patient, in human readable format, at the time of discharge on electronic media or through some other electronic means.
<b>§170.302(n) Automated measure calculation</b>	For each meaningful use objective with a percentage-based measure, electronically record the numerator and denominator and generate a report including the numerator, denominator, and resulting percentage associated with each applicable meaningful use measure.

## Standards Criteria

N/A