



[EHR Incentive Program] Which Emergency Department patients should be included in the denominators of meaningful use measures.....

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A number of measures for Meaningful Use objectives for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) include patients admitted to the Emergency Department (ED). Which ED patients should be included in the denominators of these measures for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs?

Our intent is to include in the denominator visits to emergency departments (EDs) of sufficient duration and complexity that all of the Meaningful Use objectives for which the ED is included would be relevant. We also want to encourage integration of the inpatient and emergency departments by including inpatient admissions that occur through the ED. Therefore, we are clarifying the following specifications for including ED services in the denominator for measures associated with Stage 1 of Meaningful Use objectives for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs):

The patient is admitted to the inpatient setting through the ED. In this situation, the orders entered in the ED using certified EHR technology would count for purposes of determining the computerized provider order entry (CPOE) Meaningful Use measure. Similarly, other actions taken within the ED would count for purposes of determining Meaningful Use

The patient initially presented to the ED and is treated in the ED's observation unit or otherwise receives observation services. Details on observation services can be found in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 6, Section 20.6.

For more information about the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, please visit <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms>.