

UCF REGIONAL EXTENSION CENTER

A Division of the College of Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CMS ANNOUNCES NEW MEANINGFUL USE TIMELINE

Regional Extension Centers Continue to Offer Providers Support

Friday December 6, 2013--Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a new timeline for the implementation of meaningful use for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. Under the revised timeline, Stage 2 will be extended through 2016 and Stage 3 will begin in 2017 for those providers that have completed at least two years in Stage 2.

Additionally, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) proposed an approach for certification that allows ample time for developers to create and distribute certified EHR technology before Stage 3 begins.

The goal of these changes are two-fold: first, to allow CMS and ONC to focus efforts on the successful implementation of the enhanced patient engagement, interoperability and health information exchange requirements in Stage 2; and second, to utilize data from Stage 2 participation to inform policy decisions for Stage 3.

The phased approach to program participation helps providers move from creating information in Stage 1, to exchanging information in Stage 2, to focusing on improved outcomes in Stage 3. This timeline allows for program analysis of Stage 2 data to inform the improvements in care delivery outcomes in Stage 3.

According to the Government Accountability Office, professionals who received technical assistance from a Regional Extension Center in 2012 [were 1.9 times more likely](#) to receive an incentive payment than those who did not. Regional Extensions Centers throughout the nation are prepared to continue supporting providers in their pursuit of quality care through the meaningful use of their electronic health records (EHRs).

The UCF REC which was established to help the Central Florida counties of Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and Volusia with EHR adoption and meaningful use will continue to assist its providers with meaningful use under the adjusted timeline.

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The UCF Regional Extension Center is part of the UCF College of Medicine and is one of 62 REC's established nationwide in 2010 to help physicians transition to electronic health records. The UCF REC has assisted more than 2,400 providers with EHR adoption and meaningful use, and helped them qualify them for more than \$23 million dollars in incentive payments.

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Read the [CMS blog](#).

For more information visit the [EHR Incentive Programs website](#).