Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released their long-awaited final rules regarding Stage 3 of the Electronic Health Record Incentive Program, “Meaningful Use,” as well as modifications to the program planned for CY 2015—2017. The Academy is pleased that our key comments around Stage 3 of the program were taken into consideration, specifically around the reduction of performance thresholds to allow for maximum success, simplification of program requirements, introduction of flexibility within certain objectives, flexibility allowing for participation in Stage 3 in 2017—but not required until 2018—and an overall focus on promoting interoperability of EHR systems. The Academy remains committed to helping members achieve success in this important program.

- Starting in 2015, the EHR reporting period for all providers will be based on the calendar year.
- For 2015 only, the reporting period has been shortened to a continuous 90-day reporting period aligned with the calendar year.
- Eligible Professionals (EPs) must attest to a single set of objectives and measures – 10 objectives including one public health reporting objective.
- All providers must attest using EHR technology certified to the 2014 Edition.
- Changes were made to Specific Objectives/ Measures:
  - Stage 2—Patient Electronic Access, Measure 2: For 2015, threshold of 5 percent changed to at least 1 patient seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period.
  - Stage 2—Secure Electronic Messaging: Threshold of 5 percent has been changed to having the capability for patients to send and receive a secure electronic message (yes/no).
  - Public Health Reporting: Objectives have been consolidated into one objective with three measure options

A complete overview of 2015 Program requirements can be found on CMS.gov.