

# Medicare Promoting Interoperability PROGRAM

## ELIGIBLE HOSPITALS AND CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES FOR THE 2023 PERFORMANCE PERIOD

The following information is for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) attesting to CMS for their participation in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program in calendar year (CY) 2023.

Objective	Protect Patient Health Information
Measure	<b>Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) Guides</b> Conduct an annual self- assessment using all nine SAFER Guides at any point during the calendar year.

### Definition of Terms

**High Priority Practices:** The High Priority Practices SAFER Guide identifies “high risk” and “high priority” recommended safety practices intended to optimize the safety and safe use of EHRs.

**Organizational Responsibilities:** The Organizational Responsibilities SAFER Guide identifies individual and organizational responsibilities (activities, processes, and tasks) intended to optimize the safety and safe use of EHRs.

**Contingency Planning:** The Contingency Planning SAFER Guide identifies recommended safety practices associated with planned or unplanned EHR unavailability—instances in which clinicians or other end users cannot access all or part of the EHR.

**System Configuration:** The System Configuration SAFER Guide identifies recommended safety practices associated with the way EHR hardware and software are set up (i.e., “configured”).

**System Interfaces:** The System Interfaces SAFER Guide identifies recommended safety practices intended to optimize the safety and safe use of system-to-system interfaces between EHR-related software applications.

**Patient Identification:** The Patient Identification SAFER Guide identifies recommended safety practices associated with the reliable identification of patients in the EHR.

**Computerized Provider Order Entry with Decision Support:** The Computerized Provider Order Entry with Decision Support SAFER Guide identifies recommended safety practices associated with computerized provider order entry (CPOE) and clinical decision support (CDS).

**Test Results Reporting and Follow-Up:** The Test Results Reporting and Follow-Up SAFER Guide identifies recommended safety practices intended to optimize the safety and safe use of processes and EHR



technology for the electronic communication and management of diagnostic test results.

**Clinician Communication:** The Clinician Communication SAFER Guide identifies recommended safety practices associated with communication between clinicians and is intended to optimize the safety and safe use of EHRs.

## Reporting Requirements

- YES/NO Attestation
  - To meet this measure, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals must attest YES or NO to using all [nine SAFER Guides](#) at any point during CY 2023.

## Scoring Information

- For CY 2023, this attestation will be required, but the “yes” or “no” attestation response will not be scored and a “yes” or a “no” will fulfill the measure. An organization does not have to confirm that it has implemented “fully in all areas” each practice described in a particular SAFER guide, nor will an organization be scored on how many of the practices the organization has fully implemented.
- *Reminder:* In order to earn a score greater than zero, an eligible hospital or CAH must complete the activities required by the Security Risk Analysis and SAFER Guides<sup>1</sup> measures, submit their complete numerator and denominator or Yes/No data for all required measures, submit their level of engagement for the Public Health and Clinical Exchange measures, attest to the Actions to limit or restrict the compatibility or interoperability of CEHRT statement, and the ONC Direct Review attestation, as well as report on the required electronic clinical quality measure data.

## Additional Information

- For an EHR reporting period in CY 2023, eligible hospitals and CAHs must use technology certified to the 2015 Edition of health IT certification criteria and updated to the 2015 Edition Cures Update to meet the CEHRT definition.
- To learn more about the 2015 Edition Cures Update and the changes to 2015 Edition certification criteria finalized in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act final rule (85 FR 25642), we encourage hospitals to visit <https://www.healthit.gov/curesrule/final-rule-policy/2015-edition-cures-update>.
- To check whether a health IT product that has been certified updated for the 2015 Edition Cures Update criteria, visit the Certified Health IT Product List (CHPL) at <https://chpl.healthit.gov/>.
- Certified functionality must be used as needed for a measure action to count in the numerator during an EHR reporting period. However, in some situations the product may be deployed during the EHR reporting period, but pending certification. In such cases, the product must be certified by the last day of the EHR reporting period.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2023, eligible hospitals and CAHs will be required to submit one “yes/no” attestation statement for completing an annual self-assessment using all nine SAFER Guides, and a “yes” or “no” attestation response will fulfill the measure.

- To complete each self-assessment, participants are expected to fill out the checklist and practice worksheet at the beginning of each guide.

## Regulatory References

- For further discussion, please see [87 FR 48780 through 49499](#).

## Certification Criteria

Below are the corresponding certification criteria for EHR technology that support this measure.

Certification Criteria
No 2015 Edition Cures Update certification criteria at this time.