

Meaningful Use Timelines

Meaningful Use Timelines Eligible professionals (EPs) have several potential pathways for pursuing meaningful use (MU) and becoming meaningful users across the eleven years of the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program (2011-2021). EPs can begin the program as late as 2016, and the six years for which providers can participate and earn an incentive payment can be non-consecutive. Additionally, an EP has no obligation to continue in the program once an incentive payment has been earned, but all EPs are encouraged to be meaningful users because informed and relevant use of EHRs contributes to the quality of health care. The graph below shows the possible, standard and accelerated timelines.

First Payment Year	EHR Incentive Payment Year										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2011	AIU	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	MStage 2	MStage 2					
2012		AIU	Stage 1	Stage 1	MStage 2	MStage 2	MStage 2				
2013			AIU	Stage 1	MStage 2	MStage 2	MStage 2	Stage 3			
2013*			Stage1	Stage 1	MStage 2	MStage 2	MStage 2	Stage 3			
2014				AIU	MStage 2	MStage 2	MStage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3		
2014*				Stage 1	MStage 2	MStage 2	MStage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3		
2015					AIU	MStage 2	MStage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3	Stage 3	
2015*					MStage 2	MStage 2	MStage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3	Stage 3	
2016						AIU	MStage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3	Stage 3	Stage 3
2016*						MStage 2	MStage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3	Stage 3	Stage 3

AIU = Adopt, Implement, or Upgrade; Mstage 2 = Modified Stage 2 measures

The lines of the graph above without asterisks depict EPS who successfully attest to AIU in their first year of participation in the program and to Meaningful Use in consecutive payment years and is considered the ***standard timeline***.

****Accelerated timelines*** began in 2013 in which EPs could choose to attest to meaningful use in their first year of participation and are reflected in the chart above as rows that do not begin with AIU.

Expanded timelines can be visualized by adding a blank for skipping a payment year and extending another payment year on the end of the row. Note EPs who participate for the first year in 2016 cannot skip years to receive full incentive payments for all six years of participation. Eligible professionals can participate for 6 years, and participation years do not have to be consecutive.

[CMS EHR Basics](#)

Important Dates to Remember:

First year meaningful use reporting period: *any 90 consecutive days completely within the payment/calendar year.*

The first day of earliest 90 day reporting period for any payment year is *January 1*. The last day an EP can begin a 90 day reporting period for any payment year is *October 3*.

EPs can begin attesting to first year meaningful use *April 1*, of the payment year and they can continue to attest through *March 31 of the following year.*

Subsequent calendar year meaningful use reporting periods begin *January 1* of the year following the payment year and ends *March 31* of that same year.

The Attestation period closes 90 days after the latest reporting period for the payment year ends which is *March 31*.