

Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Transition Measure 2018 Performance Period

Objective:	Secure Electronic Messaging
Measure:	Secure Electronic Messaging For at least one patient seen by the MIPS eligible clinician during the performance period, a secure message was sent using the electronic messaging function of certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT) to the patient (or the patient-authorized representative), or in response to a secure message sent by the patient (or the patient authorized representative), during the performance period.
Measure ID:	PI_TRANS_SM_1

Definition of Terms

Secure Message – Any electronic communication between a MIPS eligible clinician and patient that ensures only those parties can access the communication. This electronic message could be email or the electronic messaging function of a personal health record (PHR), an online patient portal, or any other electronic means.

Fully Enabled – The function is fully installed, any security measures are fully enabled, and the function is readily available for patient use.

Reporting Requirements

NUMERATOR/DENOMINATOR

- **NUMERATOR:** The number of patients in the denominator for whom a secure electronic message is sent to the patient (or patient-authorized representative), or in response to a secure message sent by the patient (or patient-authorized representative), during the performance period.

- **DENOMINATOR:** The number of unique patients seen by the MIPS eligible clinician during the performance period.

Scoring Information

BASE SCORE/PERFORMANCE SCORE/BONUS SCORE

- Required for Base Score: **No**
- Percentage of Performance Score: **Up to 10%**
- Eligible for Bonus Score: **No**

Note: MIPS eligible clinicians must fulfill the requirements of base score measures to earn a base score in order to earn any score in the Promoting Interoperability performance category. In addition to the base score, MIPS eligible clinicians have the opportunity to earn additional credit through the submission of performance measures and a bonus measure and/or activity.

Additional Information

- In 2018, MIPS eligible clinicians can report the 2018 Promoting Interoperability transition objectives and measures if they have technology certified to the 2015 Edition, or technology certified to the 2014 Edition, or a combination of technologies certified to the 2014 and 2015 Editions.
- This measure is worth up to 10 percentage points towards the Promoting Interoperability performance category score. More information about Promoting Interoperability scoring is available on the [QPP website](#).
- MIPS eligible clinician-initiated action and interactions with a patient-authorized representative are acceptable for the measure and are included in the numerator.
- A patient-initiated message would only count toward the numerator if the MIPS eligible clinician responds to the patient.
- The numerator should consist of the number of patients found in the denominator to whom a secure electronic message is sent or in response to a secure message sent by the patient (or patient-authorized representative), during the performance period.
- Actions included in the numerator must occur within the performance period. When MIPS eligible clinicians choose to report as a group, data should be aggregated for all MIPS eligible clinicians under one Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). This includes those MIPS eligible clinicians who may qualify for reweighting such as a significant hardship exception, hospital or ASC-based status, or in a specialty which is not required to report data to the Promoting Interoperability performance category. If these MIPS eligible clinicians choose to report as part

of a group practice, they will be scored on the Promoting Interoperability performance category like all other MIPS eligible clinicians.

Regulatory References

- For further discussion, please see the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) final rule: [81 FR 77230](#).
- In order to meet this objective and measure, MIPS eligible clinicians must use the capabilities and standards of CEHRT at 45 CFR 170.314(e)(3).

Certification and Standards Criteria

Below is the corresponding certification and standards criteria for electronic health record technology that supports achieving the meaningful use of this measure.

Certification Criteria*	
§ 170.314(e)(3) Secure messaging	Enable a user to electronically send messages to, and receive messages from, a patient in a manner that ensures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Both the patient (or authorized representative) and EHR technology user are authenticated; and (ii) The message content is encrypted and integrity-protected in accordance with the standard for encryption and hashing algorithms specified at § 170.210(f).

**Depending on the type of certification issued to the EHR technology, it will also have been certified to the certification criterion adopted at 45 CFR 170.314 (g)(1), (g)(2), or both, in order to assist in the calculation of this meaningful use measure.*

Standards Criteria	
§ 170.210(f) Encryption and hashing of electronic health information	Any encryption and hashing algorithm identified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as an approved security function in Annex A of the FIPS Publication 140-2 (incorporated by reference in § 170.299).

Additional certification criteria may apply. Review the [ONC 2015 Edition Final Rule](#) for more information.