Stages of Promoting Interoperability Programs:
First Year Demonstrating Meaningful Use

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Promoting Interoperability Programs (formally named the EHR Incentive Programs) in 2011 to encourage eligible professionals (EPs), eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) to adopt, implement, upgrade and successfully demonstrate meaningful use of certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT).

NOTE: The last year an EP, eligible hospital, or CAH could begin receiving Medicare incentive payments was 2015. The last year an EP, eligible hospital, or CAH could begin receiving Medicaid incentive payments was 2016. In 2016, Section 602 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 added subsection (d) hospitals in Puerto Rico as eligible hospitals under the Medicare program, and extended the participation timeline for these hospitals.

The Medicare and Medicaid PI Programs were designed to measure the use of CEHRT in three stages:

- **Stage 1** established requirements for the electronic capture of clinical data, including providing patients with electronic copies of health information.

- **Stage 2** expanded upon the Stage 1 criteria with a focus on advancing clinical processes and ensuring that the meaningful use of EHRs supported the aims and priorities of the National Quality Strategy. Stage 2 criteria encouraged use of CEHRT for continuous quality improvement at the point of care and the exchange of information in the most structured format possible.

  In October 2015, CMS released the [Medicare and Medicaid Programs Electronic Health Record Incentive Program-Stage 3 and Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 through 2017 final rule](#), which modified Stage 2 requirements to streamline reporting requirements on measures that had become redundant, duplicative, or topped out.

- **Stage 3** was established in 2017 as a result of the 2015 final rule and focuses on using CEHRT to improve health outcomes.

The table on the next page outlines the appropriate stages of the PI Programs based on providers' first year demonstrating meaningful use.

First Year Demonstrating Meaningful Use	Stage of Promoting Interoperability Programs								
	2011	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019 and Future Years***
2011	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 1 or Stage 2	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2012	N/A	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 1 or Stage 2	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2013	N/A	N/A	Stage 1	Stage 1	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	Stage 1	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	Modified Stage 2	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	NA	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	NA	NA	Modified Stage 2 or Stage 3	Stage 3
2019 and Future Years	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	NA	NA	NA	Stage 3