

Meaningful Use

STAGE 2/3

Make the EHR More Meaningful by Integrating Imaging, Developing HIEs, and Engaging Patients

Since the release of the Meaningful Use Stage 1 rules in 2010, hospitals and healthcare providers have made tremendous progress in adopting and implementing EHR (electronic health record) technology. Now, with the release of the final rules for Stage 2—and the draft recommendations for Stage 3 in the public comment phase—these providers are planning their next moves. As they do, their focus will shift from adopting technology and capturing and tracking health data to developing HIE (health information exchange)-enabling infrastructures and engaging patients. To reach these goals, hospitals and healthcare providers must integrate more types of patient data, such as multimedia imaging and results, into the EHR.

Meaningful Use Stage 2: Access Images through the EHR

Objective: Imaging results consisting of the image itself and any explanation or other accompanying information are accessible through Certified EHR Technology.

Measure: More than 10 percent of all scans and tests whose result is an image ordered by an authorized provider of the eligible hospital or critical access hospital for patients admitted to its inpatient or emergency department during the EHR reporting period are incorporated into or accessible through Certified EHR Technology.

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Stage 1 vs. Stage 2 Comparison Table for Eligible Hospitals and CAHs

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The purpose of this white paper is to discuss how Agfa HealthCare can help healthcare organizations meet the requirements for Meaningful Use Stage 2 and get ready for Stage 3 by providing single point-of-care access to the patient's comprehensive medical record, including medical imaging across geographical boundaries. With ICIS™ (Imaging Clinical Information System), the patient-centric, enterprise clinical IT platform, Agfa HealthCare image enables the EHR and helps healthcare organizations develop HIEs and engage patients.

Integrate Imaging: Share and Exchange Images within the EHR

Stage 2 final ruling mandates that providers meet 16 Core Objectives and three of six Menu Objectives in order to collect EHR incentive payments. The Stage 2 Menu Objectives address image sharing within the EHR, an important requirement for both HIEs and patient engagement. To meet the relevant imaging objective, at least 10 percent of a provider or hospital's imaging results must be accessible through the EHR.

Stage 3 draft regulations were presented at the ONC (Office of the National Coordinator) Health IT Policy Committee Meeting in November, 2013. The ONC is suggesting reclassifying the objective of access to imaging studies in EHRs from an optional Menu Objective to a required Core Objective. With this change, every provider will be required to make a minimum of 10 percent of the system's imaging results accessible through the EHR in order to collect incentive payments. Agfa HealthCare can help providers prepare to meet these proposed requirements with the company's multidisciplinary, PACS-neutral/vendor-neutral imaging management and accessibility strategy.

The Essential Services of ICIS

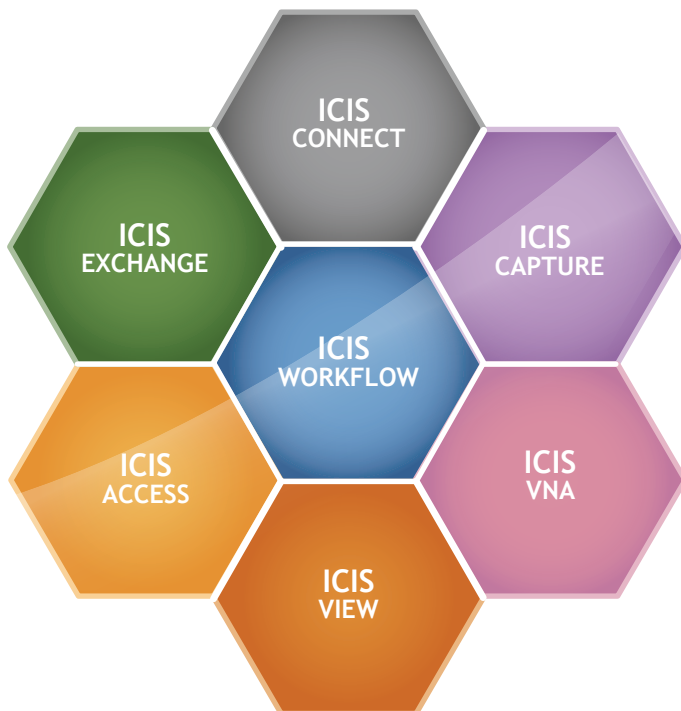
ICIS is much more than a VNA

ICIS interfaces with the EHR or HIE, providing seamless integration of multimedia patient imaging records, and creates a single, comprehensive, longitudinal imaging patient record by unifying the patient record across regions, facilities, departments, and specialties. Its zero-footprint medical imaging viewer, the XERO® technology platform, provides secure access to images* and data from existing workstations anywhere on the network, using most popular web browsers—without requiring software application downloads or installations.

ICIS is standards-based, which allows sharing of all types of medical images regardless of file type or originating vendor. It's easy for healthcare providers to unify disparate PACS and share and exchange patient images and information.

In addition, the ICIS platform can be deployed by healthcare providers of any size. It provides the reliability and scalability required by large health networks that generate tens of millions of medical imaging studies annually, yet it can scale smoothly down to support smaller regional hospital networks.

* Image access not intended for diagnosis



Develop HIEs: Facilitate Access to Patient Data and Images

To coordinate patient care by facilitating access to patient data across multiple healthcare providers and facilities, Meaningful Use Stage 2 and Stage 3 emphasize the importance of HIEs. Consequently, healthcare providers are taking steps to deploy HIEs to achieve incentives and prepare for new models of care delivery and payment, such as ACOs and ACNs (accountable care organizations and accountable care networks).

To enable more rapid deployment of HIEs, Agfa HealthCare has entered into a strategic relationship with Orion Health, a provider of HIE and healthcare integration solutions. The Orion Health HIE solution helps organizations achieve meaningful use criteria and qualify for federal incentives.

By combining their respective expertise in enterprise imaging and EHR/HIE, Agfa HealthCare and Orion Health will image-enable public and private EHRs and HIEs, allowing healthcare organizations to present a comprehensive multimedia health record to an entire physician population. The solution integrates images from the ICIS platform into a shared 'single best view' of the patient through the Orion Health Clinical Portal. Multidisciplinary imaging data will now be available in context with other patient data and documents drawn from multiple systems across a hospital network or health region.

The integrated Agfa HealthCare/Orion Health solution creates workflow efficiencies, providing images in context with patient information, and delivering more comprehensive information for care decisions. It helps contain costs as healthcare organizations strive to consolidate and exchange health records across multiple enterprises.

The Agfa HealthCare/Orion Health solution can help healthcare organizations of all sizes and types achieve Meaningful Use Stage 2 and Stage 3 objectives by image-enabling their HIE. Midsize, large, or regional hospitals can deploy an image-enabled EHR across departments within a single facility or across a region or care network. And private health systems can provide a consistent, clinical portal experience across all facilities, regardless of the underlying information system and EHR.

Engage Patients: A Core Strategy for Patient-Centric Healthcare

Meaningful Use Stage 2 final rules expand the emphasis on patient engagement. Instead of simply providing patients an "electronic copy of their health information," for example, Stage 2 requires that they be provided "electronic or online access" to health data.

During the process of developing the Stage 2 rules, patient engagement was not without controversy. Many groups, including the AHA (American Hospital Association), spoke out forcefully against the proposed rules. And while the patient engagement objectives and measurements were eventually less severe in final form, they may still be a challenge for many healthcare providers. To drive at least five percent of their patients to their EHR solution, providers will have to publicize the availability of patient access to the EHR, and ensure that their solution has a simple, user-friendly interface.

Agfa HealthCare and ICIS can help. As patient engagement increasingly becomes a core strategy for better care, ICIS allows healthcare providers to develop a more patient-centric ecosystem. Through its relationship with Orion Health, Agfa HealthCare enables healthcare organizations to develop a strategy for addressing patient engagement and ultimately improving the patient experience and reducing healthcare costs.

In addition to a clinician portal, the integrated Agfa HealthCare/Orion solution includes Orion's Patient Portal, which provides a unified view of the EHR, including the entire longitudinal imaging record. Patients, their families, and other authorized representatives enjoy secure access to patient healthcare images and records.

Case Study: Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland Clinic's use of ICIS to image-enable its EHR across multiple physician populations can serve as an example for hospitals, hospital networks, and healthcare facilities of all sizes. The highly rated hospital worked with Agfa HealthCare to allow storage, display, and access to clinical images acquired across the Clinic's main campus and its multiple affiliate and community hospitals, community health centers, and outpatient clinics, located throughout the states of Ohio and Florida, as well as Las Vegas, Toronto, and planned for 2013, Abu Dhabi.

Using the Clinic's ICIS-based enterprise imaging infrastructure, physicians can view the longitudinal image records captured during a patient's episode of care within the context of the EHR. ICIS has been so successful that the Clinic will use it as the basis for a hosted imaging solution that can be used by smaller healthcare organizations. The hosted imaging solution provides an ICIS-based infrastructure that hospitals and organizations of all sizes can use to manage the workflow, acquisition, storage, access and sharing of medical images across all facilities and departments.

Meaningful Use Stage 2: Enhanced Patient Engagement

Objective: Provide patients the ability to view online, download and transmit their health information within 36 hours after discharge from the hospital.

Measure One: More than 50 percent of all unique patients discharged from the inpatient or emergency departments of the eligible hospital or critical access hospital during the EHR reporting period are provided timely (available to the patient within 36 hours after discharge from the hospital) online access to their health information.

Measure Two: More than five percent of all unique patients discharged from the inpatient or emergency departments of the eligible hospital or critical access hospital during the EHR reporting period (or their authorized representatives) view, download, or transmit to a third party their health information.

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Stage 1 vs. Stage 2 Comparison Table for Eligible Hospitals and CAHs

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Conclusion

Integrating imaging into the EHR can help healthcare providers achieve Meaningful Use Stage 2 image accessibility objectives and measurements, as well as the proposed Stage 3 measurements. Agfa HealthCare's ICIS enterprise clinical IT platform image-enables the EHR and allows providers to achieve the imaging Menu Objective, providing a single point-of-care access to the patient's comprehensive medical record, including medical imaging, across geographical boundaries.

The ICIS strategy helps you prepare your healthcare organization for greater imaging accessibility requirements. And when integrated with Orion Health's HIE, ICIS can serve as the imaging cornerstone for HIE solution infrastructures and patient engagement initiatives.

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