



Vulcan Enterprises LLC

Think, Build and Operate

UNDERSTANDING MEANINGFUL USE

Understand “Meaningful Use”

Important note: Implementing an EHR that meets the "meaningful use" criteria below is not enough to qualify for stimulus incentives. Providers must become **meaningful users**, which mean they must be able to demonstrate the functionality defined by the criteria below.

As a first step toward becoming a meaningful user, your EHR technology must:

- Be certified - the only such certification available today is 2011 CCHIT certification.
- Allow you to perform ePrescribing - including drug-drug, drug-allergy, drug-formulary checks.
- Facilitate your ability to share clinical data with other certified EHR systems - interoperability.
- Permit you to report on specified clinical quality measures - still being defined.

Medicare and ONC published the latest proposed "meaningful use" criteria and opened it to public comment on 12/30/2009

PREPARE YOUR STAFF FOR CHANGE

Quality reporting requires a team of meaningful users, from physicians to support staff. Becoming meaningful users is dependent upon staff adoption and proper use of the EHR.

As a result, your entire practice should prepare now for the change from paper to electronic patient records so they can be documenting and collecting required data quickly after the EHR installed. Here are tips to help ramp up your staff:

- Get staff involved early in the EHR selection process.
- Arrange for an independent information technology assessment
- Encourage staff to attend EHR webinars and watch online demos to become familiar with how to document in an EHR.
- Ensure your EHR vendor offers multiple training options to accommodate different staff needs.
- Choose an EHR that includes tools and workflow that allow staff to participate in an automated, standardized documentation process. For example, automated triggers can alert a mid-level provider when a patient is overdue for tests. The provider can immediately send the lab order directly from the EHR, saving the physician time during the exam.