

Meaningful Use

Transition of Definition

Meaningful Use has a core item that requires a Summary of Care to be sent when a patient is referred to another setting of care. There is a lot of discussion on what is a “transition of Care”. The federal government refers a transition of care as the following:

Definition of Terms

Transition of Care – The movement of a patient from one setting of care (hospital, ambulatory primary care practice, ambulatory, specialty care practice, long-term care, home health, rehabilitation facility) to another. At a minimum this includes all transitions of care and referrals that are ordered by the EP.

- If the provider to whom the referral is made or to whom the patient is transitioned to has access to the medical record maintained by the referring provider then the summary of care record would not need to be provided, and that patient must not be included in the denominator for transitions of care.

Examples of Transitions of Care:

- Referral to a specialist or another primary care provider (outside your practice)
- Referral to Hospice
- Referral to Home Care
- Referral to Palliative Care
- Referral to a rehab hospital
- Referral/transfer to an extended care facility/assisted living to be managed by a provider from another practice
- Referring a patient from an ambulatory practice to the ED
- Patients who are referred back to their primary care provider after seeing a specialist (and the specialist has completed care of the patient and will not manage/see the patient for this medical issue)
- Patient leaves the practice

Examples that are NOT Transitions of Care:

- Ordering lab test
- Ordering cardiac rehab
- Ordering diabetic education
- Ordering a physical therapy
- Ordering radiology test (MRI, x-Ray, Cat Scan, Bone Density, etc.)
- Ordering other diagnostic studies (PFT, EKG, etc.)
- Scheduling patients for a procedure at another site if the procedure is performed by a referring provider/practice. Examples:
 - Cardiologist schedules a patient for a cardiac cath to be performed at the local hospital where the cardiologist will be performing the cardiac cath
 - A surgeon who sees a patient in the office and schedules surgery at the hospital
- Specialist/consultant sending information back to the referring provider but not sending the patient back to them. Often provider will send a courtesy note indicating the specialist saw the patient and what the patient will be treated for.
- Referral of a patient to another provider within the same practice (using the same EHR).