

CMS Publishes Stage 3 Meaningful Use Proposed Rule AMT's Credentialed RMA's Continue to Play a Key Role

The Stage 3 Meaningful Use proposed rule was issued by CMS on Friday, March 20th and will be published in the March 30 *Federal Register*. The proposed rule maintains the requirement that Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) be executed by either a licensed health provider or a credentialed medical assistant, or the equivalent. Specifically, orders may be entered by: *“any licensed healthcare professional, credentialed medical assistant, or a medical staff member credentialed to and performing the equivalent duties of a credentialed medical assistant; who can enter orders into the medical record per state, local, and professional guidelines.”*

The NPRM goes on to emphasize that, although employers are given discretion to determine what type of credential will assure that their staff has the requisite clinical training to perform the CPOE function, providers may not use “laypersons” (e.g., “scribes”) for this purpose. The credential must assure clinical training equivalent to that of a credentialed medical assistant.

In Stage 2, the CPOE function included orders for medication, laboratory, and radiology services. Under the Stage 3 proposal, the radiology aspect would be expanded to include not only traditional radiology services, but most other types of diagnostic imaging as well, including ultrasound, magnetic resonance, and computed tomography. Among other changes proposed for Stage 3 are significantly increased targets for use of EHR. For example:

- 80% of prescriptions would be required to be sent electronically, up from 60% under Stage 2
- 60% of lab and imaging orders would be required to be sent electronically, compared with 30% under Stage 2
- 25% of patients would have to view, download or transmit data from their records, compared with 5% under Stage 2
- 25% of patients would have to have engaged in secure messaging with a provider, compared with 5% under Stage 2

[Proposed Rule](#) (pages 81-85 highlighted)