**XXX Workgroups**

**Dates**

Location

Washington, DC

**Instructions and Questions for Panelists**

**Purpose: The Eligible Professional Panel will help to inform recommendations prepared by the HITSC and HITPC on how to enable EPs to be more successful in their efforts to meet Stage 2 meaningful use, and enable more providers to be able to participate in Stage 3 of the program.**

**THEMES/QUESTIONS FOR PANELISTS**

 (Please answer as many or as few of the questions as your experience and/or the time allows.)

1. As you assess your readiness for stage 2, what objectives pose the greatest challenge? What is your approach for addressing those challenges?
2. How well does the meaningful use program address the needs of specialists? How would you improve the design of the meaningful use incentive program for your specialty or practice discipline? What are your suggestions for enabling greater levels of participation by specialists ( e.g. measure definition, quality measures related to physician specialties, attestation timelines)? What kinds of resources do you believe most important and useful for ONC and CMS to provide or to support so as to enable increasing the level of provider adoption within your specialty or practice discipline?
3. What do you believe are the main reasons why certain eligible providers may be electing not to participate in the program? How best might ONC and CMS encourage their participation? What guidance or actions by HHS may be most conducive to increased adoption of the public health reporting standards including transport standards?
4. What meaningful use objectives do you believe should be given highest priority for their inclusion in Stage 3 and why?
5. To encourage a greater focus on improved outcomes, the HITPC has identified an alternative pathway for Meaningful Use Stage 3. This new pathway would allow EPs and EHs who are meeting performance and/or improvement thresholds on quality measures to deem a subset of relevant MU functionality implicitly required to achieve performance/improvement.
	1. What clinical quality measures could deem functional objectives, and which functional objectives are the best candidates for deeming?
6. What have you found to be the most effective use of HIT to enable consumers to be active participants in their own healthcare? What are the most important barriers meaningful use could address to promote more effective patient engagement?
7. Do you currently send and/or receive electronic transitions of care information with other healthcare providers including skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and home care agencies (HC) caring for your patients and if so:
	1. What actions have you taken or believe should be taken to overcome barriers to interoperability?
	2. How can meaningful use program better enable HIE with other healthcare providers including SNF and HC?
8. Stage 2 indirectly includes long term and post-acute care (LTPAC) by requiring exchange between providers such as may occur between hospitals or EPs with LTPAC providers. For Stage 3, to more directly address the interests of EPs focused on practice in LTPAC, Home Health and Behavioral Health, do you have suggestions for criteria appropriate for those care venues?
9. What are the most important actions vendors can take to in support of attestation?”
10. Should CMS take additional steps to provide EPs guidance on how to prepare for audit of meaningful use attestation? If so, what suggestions do you have as to what those steps should be?