Clarification of the Secure Electronic Messaging Objective
There has been some confusion on the requirement for the Secure Electronic Messaging objective. We have highlighted some of the requirements and given examples to help clarify the objective requirements. The specification sheets are available by clicking on the links below.

Stage 3 Objective 6 Coordination of Care Through Patient Engagement Specification Sheet (includes Secure Electronic Messaging requirement)

- **Secure Message** – Any electronic communication between a provider and patient that ensures only those parties can access the communication. This electronic message could be email or the electronic messaging function of a PHR, an online patient portal, or any other electronic means.
- **This objective is directed at the provider action.**
- The action in this objective is when the **provider** sends a secure electronic message to a patient or when a provider responds to a secure message sent by a patient.
- The only time a patient initiated message would count in the numerator is if the provider responds to that message.
- If a provider finds they are not meeting the objective they should review how they are communicating with their patients and use the secure electronic messaging when appropriate.
- For program year 2019 the threshold for Stage 3 is 5%
- The numerator action (provider send or responds to a secure electronic message with a patient) can be completed anytime within CY 2019 and is not restricted to the 90-day MU reporting period as long as the patient that is sent a message is a part of the unique number of patients included in the denominator from the selected 90-day MU reporting period.
- Stage 3 specification sheet for Secure Electronic Messaging
- **Example:**
  - Dr. A selects June, July and August for his objective reporting period
  - Dr. A see 100 unique patients during this 90-day period - 100 is the denominator.
  - The minimum number of patients Dr. A must send a secure electronic message to is 6 patients because the threshold must be **more than 5%**.
  - If Dr. A sends an electronic message, at any time during CY 2019 to **at least 6** of the patients that are part of the 100 patients counted in the denominator, those messages will count in the numerator.
  - **Threshold description:** The resulting percentage must be **more than 5%** for an EP to meet this measure.
  - **Numerator description:** The number of patients in the denominator for whom a secure electronic message is sent **to the patient**, or **in response** to a secure message sent by the patient.
  - **Denominator description:** Number of unique patients seen by the provider during the EHR reporting period.