

APPENDIX A: Conceptual Model Describing the Phases of How Primary Care Practices Locally Achieve Meaningful Use

Conceptually, primary care practices striving to use their EHR meaningfully move through four phases: (1) identifying necessary EHR functionality, (2) adopting and implementing the EHR functionality, (3) using the functionality, and (4) ensuring that use of functionality improves patient outcomes (see below). The strategies to track and ensure practices complete these phases include expanding certification requirements for EHRs (for phase 1), measuring use and process (for phase 2 and 3), and tracking and assessing outcomes (for phase 4). Stage 1 MU parallels practice phase 1's focus, Stage 2 parallels practice phase 2 and 3, and Stage 3 parallels practice phase 4. While MU is entering Stage 3, for many attributes of care, clinicians and practices still remain in their first phase of locally meaningful EHR use.

