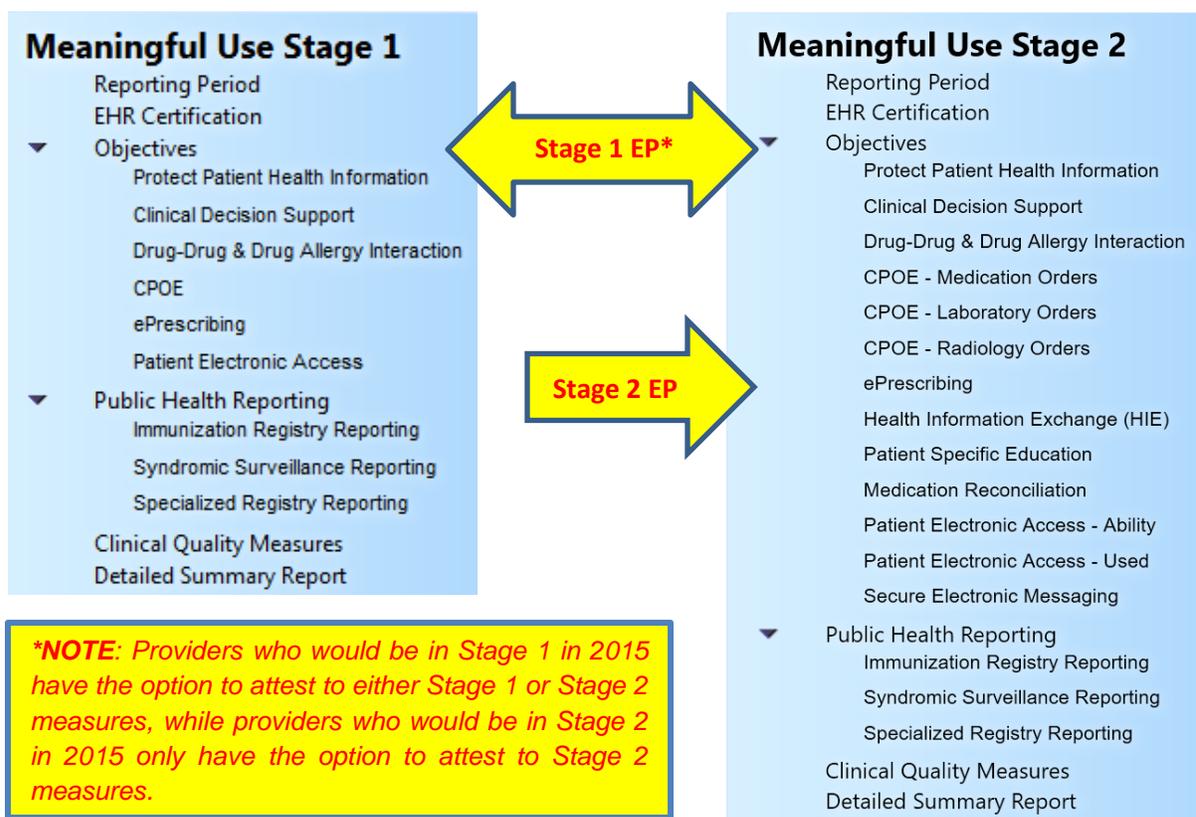


Understanding Meaningful Use in 2015

For 2015, CMS's revised regulations allow providers who would have been in Stage 1 to claim alternate exclusions for a number of measures, and/or to attest to alternate measures (that have lower thresholds) for some objectives. Alternate exclusions do not need to be justified and exempt a provider from needing to report on a measure. Because of technical limitations in the State Level Registry, CMS granted California permission to create separate Stage 1 and Stage 2 versions of meaningful use in 2015. In Stage 1, measures with alternate exclusions are not included (since all providers in Stage 1 would be assumed to take advantage of the alternate exclusions), and objectives default to the easier alternate measures, if available. For this reason, eligible professionals who are able to choose Stage 1 in 2015 only see 6 measures while those who are in Stage 2 (and thus would not be able to utilize alternate exclusions) see 13 measures. The measures for Stage 1 and Stage 2 are shown below:



Because the Public Health Reporting objective has complicated rules as to which or how many measures can use alternative exclusions, providers in both Stage 1 and Stage 2 in 2015 are given the option to choose both alternate exclusions and regular exclusions for measures as specified by CMS's regulations. No provider is automatically excluded from any public health measure because of alternate exclusions.