Public Health Interfaces
Implementation Guidelines
and Resources

For MEDITECH System Hospitals
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This Public Health Interfaces Implementation Guidelines and Resources document is designed to help you navigate the process of establishing interfaces from your MEDITECH hospital to public health agencies for the purpose of meeting Meaningful Use Objectives.

**Introduction**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) supports the Meaningful Use public health mandates because they are designed to improve the health in our communities and our nation. These mandates help communities prepare for emerging medical threats, future immunization demands, and faster detection of influenza outbreaks, pandemics, and outbreaks associated with bioterrorism.

Meaningful Use mandates also promise to:

- Improve patient-centric preventive care
- Bring attention to the readiness of state public health agencies
- Encourage the development of standardized data elements and messaging implementation guides (data exchange) to support public health efforts

Having the capability to send relevant patient information to public health agencies, and meeting these Meaningful Use Objectives, ensures that your hospital contributes to this important effort.

**Meaningful Use Public Health Requirements**

Your hospital must demonstrate its ability to meet five of the ten Meaningful Use Menu Set Objectives. Menu Set Objectives #8, #9 and #10 are the ones that specifically pertain to data transfer between your hospital and public health agencies.

The capabilities as related to public health are as follows:

- **Menu Set #8**: Submit electronic data to immunization registries or immunization information systems according to applicable law and practice
- **Menu Set #9**: Submit electronic data on reportable lab results to public health agencies according to applicable law and practice
- **Menu Set #10**: Submit electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies according to applicable law and practice

Under **Meaningful Use Stage 1** rules, eligible hospitals are required to achieve at least one of the public health Menu Set Objectives. Eligible hospitals must choose a public health objective that their jurisdictional public health agency is capable of receiving, as well as the imperative to understand its individual state public health requirements.

**Meaningful Use Stage 2** proposes that these public health Menu Set Objectives will become Core Objectives, thus requiring eligible hospitals to comply with all three.
Implementation Guidelines

The following steps are designed to help you through the process of establishing public health interfaces for the purpose of meeting these Meaningful Use Objectives.

1. **Most important:**
   Contact your State Department of Public Health (DPH) to learn your individual state requirements. [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/international/relres.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/international/relres.html)
   
   A. Each DPH could potentially be divided into three divisions/agencies.
      a. Lab
      b. Immunization
      c. Syndromic Surveillance
   
   B. Determine which of the three public health interfaces are supported by your state.
      a. Lab
      b. Immunization
      c. Syndromic Surveillance
   
   C. Find out who is the direct contact for each of the three interfaces. Some states have one person who covers all three.

2. **Determine your state’s technology requirements and specifications based on the following elements.**
   
   A. Data specifications
   B. If HL7, which version -- v 2.5.1, v 2.4, or v 2.3
   C. Type of connectivity, such as TCP, FTP, HTTP
   D. Transmission frequency -- real time or batch (daily, weekly)
   E. Data receiving capability
   F. Timeline/resource availability, i.e., the state may already have 200 hospitals in the queue (can they get to you in nine weeks or nine months?)

3. **Select a data version according to your state specification.**
   NOTE: HL7 version 2.5.1 is the national standard and there is a directive that all states and providers get to the point that they conform to this national standard.

4. **Decide which data transmission mode you will be using to connect.**
   Transmission mode varies from real time or batch, VPN P2P, etc., to DPH.

5. **Determine which public health interfaces to submit based on what is available from your state’s Department of Health.**
   NOTE: It is very important to complete step #5 before step #6 so that you don’t contract for an interface that your state doesn’t support yet.

6. **Contract for interfaces.**
   You have a choice of vendors when purchasing public health interfaces.

7. **Download codes, identify results to report and build maps.**
   A. Test with small sample of patients to your state agency
   B. Submit Meaningful Use attestation
   C. Visit the CMS website for more information on attestation [http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/32_Attestation.asp#3](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/32_Attestation.asp#3)
   D. Coordinate production for data feed to go live
Public Health Interfaces Partner

Iatric Systems provides three interfaces that make it easy for your MEDITECH hospital to provide the required immunization, syndromic surveillance data and reportable laboratory data to state public health agencies.

In addition to our advanced interface solutions, Iatric Systems has a support process in place designed to speed your path to attestation and eliminate many of the errors and false starts that are common in this process. As a true partner in the process, your Iatric Systems team:

- Meets with you and your state Department of Health to help you determine, then confirm, public health Meaningful Use requirements
- Helps ensure successful submission by using tools such as a NIST validator during internal testing prior to submitting to your DPH
- Supports you throughout the implementation, testing and submission stages
- Provides a Proof-of-Readiness package if the state is not ready to receive the data. The package includes:
  - Image of patient in ADM module
  - Image of patient admission with reason documenting admission for syndromic surveillance
  - Image of HL7 message being created
  - Image or file of actual HL7 message
  - Image of successful NIST validation
  - Image of LAB results
  - Image of eMAR – Immunization with Lot #, administration site, etc.

Iatric Systems Public Health Interface Solutions

Iatric Systems provides an interface for meeting each of the three Meaningful Use public health objectives, and all are ONC-ATCB certified for MEDITECH systems.

- **Public Health Immunization Reporting Interface** – Meets Meaningful Use Menu Set #8 Objective: Submits immunization data to public health registries
- **Public Health Lab Reportables Interface** – Meets Meaningful Use Menu Set #9 Objective: Submits reportable lab results to public health agencies
- **Public Health Syndromic Surveillance Interface** – Meets Meaningful Use Menu Set #10 Objective: Submits syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies
Additional Resources and FAQs

• **Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC):**
  ONC is at the forefront of the administration’s health IT efforts. It is a resource to the entire health system to support the adoption of health information technology and the promotion of nationwide health information exchange.
  [ONC Regulations Frequently Asked Questions](#)

• **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):**
  The CMS oversees the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. These programs provide a financial incentive for the “Meaningful Use” of certified EHR technology to achieve health and efficiency goals.
  [CMS Frequently Asked Questions](#)

• **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**
  The CDC is engaged in EHR policy decisions to improve care for individuals and provide leadership to leverage Meaningful Use for public health. Currently, the CDC is collaborating with and providing input to ONC and CMS for consideration of public health priorities within Meaningful Use now and in the future. CDC incorporates partner feedback through engagement with national public health organizations (e.g., ASTHO, NACCHO, APHL, etc.). In an effort to educate stakeholders, CDC is also working to provide consolidated information to its programs and partners as well as through forums to the general public.
  [CDC Meaningful Use Website](#)
  [CDC Meaningful Use Frequently Asked Questions](#)

If you would like more information about Iatric Systems Public Health Interfaces, contact us using the information below.

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