

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 Meaningful Use Objectives.

The Objectives relating to public health are as follows:

- Submit electronic data to immunization registries or immunization information systems according to applicable law and practice
- Submit electronic data on reportable lab results to public health agencies according to applicable law and practice
- Submit electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies according to applicable law and practice

Under **Meaningful Use Stage 1**, 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.

Under **Meaningful Use Stage 2**, the public health interfaces are Core Objectives, thus requiring eligible hospitals to meet 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's requirements. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/international/relres.html>

- A. Each DPH could potentially be divided into three divisions/agencies.
 - a. Immunization
 - b. Lab
 - c. Syndromic Surveillance
- B. Determine which of the three public health interfaces are supported by your state.
 - a. Immunization
 - b. Lab
 - 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. What is your state's ability to accept HL7 version 2.5.1 messages?
- B. Does your state have any additional data implementation specifications?
- C. Type of connectivity, such as TCP, SFTP, FTP, HTTP
- D. Transmission frequency — real time or batch (daily, weekly)
- E. 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. 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 #3 before step #4 so that you don't contract for an interface that your state doesn't support yet.

4. Contract for interfaces.

You have a choice of vendors when purchasing public health interfaces.

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 works with you to meet your attestation goals. As a true partner in the process, your Iatric Systems team:

- Meets with you and your state Department of Health to help you determine the specific Public Health Interface requirements for your state
- 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

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** — Submits immunization data to immunization registries
- **Public Health Lab Reportables Interface** — Submits reportable lab results to public health agencies
- **Public Health Syndromic Surveillance Interface** — 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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