Meaningful Use Requirements for Providers

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Where do I submit data in Alameda County?

- **For Syndromic Surveillance data** – Contact Ben Luffey at Health Monitoring Systems to get your facility setup to send a test message to us or to ask questions if you or your organization wishes to demonstrate meaningful use of your electronic health record (EHR) system. Ben can be reached by phone at (412) 231-2020 or by email at ben.luffey@hmsinc.com. Upon submission of a test message, you will receive a confirmation notice of a successful test message as documentation that you have met Stage 1 Public Health attestation requirements in order to receive Meaningful use financial incentives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

- **For Immunization data** – Go to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) website located at: http://cairweb.org/cair-regions/ to identify which region you are in. After determining your region, you will need to go to the Data Exchange Tech Support page at: http://cairweb.org/data-exchange-tech-support/ to get the name of the regional Data Exchange representative you should contact in order to submit your test data. Currently, all regions are able to receive immunization test data. Upon submission of a test message, you will receive a confirmation notice of a successful test message from CAIR. If the CAIR registry is unable to process the test message due to lack of staff capacity, you will be provided with an exclusion notice.

- **For Electronic Laboratory Reporting data** – Go to the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE) website at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/informatics/tech/Pages/CalREDIEELR.aspx for instructions on how to submit a test message. Upon submission of a test message, you will receive an electronic acknowledgement from CalREDIE. If CalREDIE is unable to process the test message due to lack of staff capacity, you will be provided with an exclusion notice. Please note that EPs cannot choose the Electronic Laboratory Reporting requirement to fulfill Meaningful Use.

Q: For my test message, may I submit "dummy" data instead of "real" syndromic surveillance data from an actual patient?

Yes. The use of test information about a fictional patient that would be reporting the same data elements that would be sent about an actual patient would satisfy this objective.

Q: When do I attest to meaningful use?

Start and end dates to attest for the EHR Incentive Program are different for Medicare versus Medi-Cal programs and EHs versus EPs.
Visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) web site for reporting timelines and other important dates for Medicare.

Visit the California Department of Health Care Services’ (DHCS) website for reporting timelines and other important dates for Medi-Cal.

Q: How do I attest for meeting meaningful use?

CMS and Medi-Cal will accept a yes/no attestation to verify that eligible providers, eligible hospitals or CAHs have fulfilled the objective and measure of submitting electronic syndromic surveillance data in the first year reporting period. For auditing purposes, CMS also states that “all providers attesting to receive an EHR incentive payment for either Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs should retain ALL relevant supporting documentation (in either paper or electronic format used in the completion of the Attestation Module responses). Documentation to support the attestation should be retained for six years post-attestation. Documentation to support payment calculations (such as cost report data) should continue to follow the current documentation retention processes.”

- **Medicare Hospitals and CAHs**
  - Visit the CMS website for more information on attestation.
  - CMS has prepared a Meaningful Use Attestation Calculator to assist you prior to submitting your attestation to see if you would be able to meet all of the necessary measures to successfully demonstrate meaningful use and qualify for an EHR incentive payment.
  - Also, review the CMS Attestation User Guide (PDF, 6.4 MB) for hospitals and CAHs to provide step-by-step instructions for login and completing attestation. For the public health objectives, see pages 19 to 23 of the user guide.

- **Medi-Cal Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals**
  - Visit the DHCS website for more information on attestation.
  - DHCS has also prepared an Attestation Workbook (Excel) to assist you in preparing for attestation.

Q: To whom do I send my attestation?

Medicare EP, EHs and CAHs must attest to meaningful use through the CMS web-based Registration and Attestation System.

Medi-Cal EP, EHs and CAHs must attest to meaningful use through the Department of Health Care Services.

Q: What are the CMS regulations with which I must comply to fulfill the public health objective of submitting syndromic surveillance data to a public health agency?

To comply with this CMS objective, EP, EHs and CAHs must meet the objective or having the capability to submit electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies and the actual submission according to applicable law and practices.

- For the EP objective related to this EHR, refer to page 44568 of the CMS Final Rules, 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 495.6(e)(10)(i).
• For the EH and CAH objective related to the EHR objectives refer to page 44570 of the CMS Final Rules, 42 CFR 495.6(g)(10)(i).

The measure must involve the actual submission of at least one test of certified EHR technology's capacity to submit electronic to immunization registries and follow-up submission if the test is successful.

For the EP measures related to this requirement, refer to page 44568 of the CMS Final Rules, 42 CFR 495.6(e)(10)(ii).

For the EH and CAH measures related to this requirement, refer to page 44570 of the CMS Final Rules, 42 CFR 495.6(g)(10)(ii).

Also see CMS Final Rules for the EHR Incentive Program.