

Public Health Agencies (PHAs): Get Ready For Stage 2 Meaningful Use Public Health Reporting Requirements

The Stage 2 Meaningful Use (MU) final rules published in the Federal Register on September 4, 2012, require local and state Public Health Agencies (PHAs) to increase their MU capabilities and establish new processes to receive the relevant MU standards compliant public health data from eligible providers, prior to the start of Stage 2 MU [10/01/2013 for Eligible Hospitals (EHs) and 01/01/2014 for Eligible Professionals (EPs)]. In Stage 2 MU, the capability to submit electronic data for immunizations is in the core or mandatory set for EPs and the capability to submit electronic data for immunizations, reportable laboratory results, and syndromic surveillance is in the core set for EHs. In addition, two new public health objectives for EPs have been added to the menu or options set - the capability to report cancer cases to a cancer registry and specific cases to a specialized registry (e.g., birth defects registries, chronic disease registries, traumatic injury registries). PHAs preparing for Stage 2 MU can use guidance to implement the new objectives and processes, such as:

- Contributing their PHA's MU capacity information to the proposed Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) centralized PHA capacity repository (declaration process)
- Supporting providers (EPs and EHs) for registration of their intent to submit data for a MU objective
- On-boarding and accepting ongoing data submission from providers
- Providing an acknowledgement or a written communication (which can be in electronic format) from the PHA confirming a provider's registration and achievement of ongoing submission

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) facilitated the establishment of the collaborative Stage 2 MU Public Health Reporting Requirements Task Force with 44 representatives from the public health community including: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA), North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS), Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII), State and Local PHA members and others.

First, the Task Force provided recommendations and requirements to CMS to establish the centralized PHA Stage 2 MU capacity repository which will provide EPs and EHs information on jurisdictional capacity to accept electronic data for Stage 2 MU public health objectives. Second, the Task Force developed guidance for PHAs to facilitate the registration of intent by providers, on-boarding and ongoing submission, and the ability to provide acknowledgements to providers. Third, the Task Force developed guidance related to transport protocols and specialized disease registries in the context of public health reporting in Stage 2 MU.

The consensus guidance and recommendations developed by this collaborative Task Force have been shared widely with state and local PHAs. PHAs across the nation can adopt this guidance according to their jurisdictional needs to implement the new objectives and processes required for Stage 2 MU.

For more information on this task force please email meaningfuluse@cdc.gov
