



Allscripts™

Allscripts Meaningful Use series

Update: Immunization Registry and Public Health Agency Connectivity



Meaningful Use Update: Immunization Registry and Public Health Agency Connectivity

Background:

Stage 1 Meaningful Use objectives require Eligible Professionals (EPs) to satisfy at least one measure related to population health. Specifically, EPs must attempt to exchange information with an immunization registry and/or a public health agency.¹

From a practical standpoint, Stage 1 Meaningful Use objectives require EPs have electronic connectivity to immunization registries and agencies that support the necessary standards (HL7 2.3.1 and 2.5.1). Accordingly, the Stimulus Set provides connectivity exclusively to those immunization registries and public health agencies that support these standards.

Stimulus Set

For purposes of satisfying Stage 1 Meaningful Use objectives and measures, the Stimulus Set leverages a centralized connectivity solution. This allows the ARRA-certified versions of Enterprise, Professional, and MyWay EHRs – equipped with the Stimulus Set – to connect to registries and PHAs that support electronic submission according to those standards. The use of this feature is transparent to the EHR.

As a reminder, the ARRA-certified versions of Allscripts' EHRs are Enterprise v 11.2, Enterprise v 11.2 modular, Professional v 9.2, and MyWay v 9.0. Each of these versions requires the Stimulus Set to be considered the "certified" version.

Registry Availability

Not all states have implemented electronic submission to their immunization registries or public health agencies. Additionally, some larger metropolitan areas have one or the other of these registries implemented.

In some cases a registry does accept electronic submission, but does not support the government-mandated standards. In these circumstances, submission of data is **not required** to successfully meet the Meaningful Use objective. As such, Allscripts will not develop non-standard interfaces to those registries. If the customer would like to request the development of a non-standard interface, Allscripts will evaluate the customer's need and may provide customization or services packages outside the Stimulus Set to enable transmission.

Allscripts constantly monitors the current and planned availability of states' and municipalities' immunization registries and public health agencies, and we adjust our schedule for providing Stimulus Set connectivity to each accordingly.

Caveats

1. Uni-directional vs bi-directional interfaces.

¹ The rule states that the EP must perform at least one test of certified EHR technology's capacity to submit electronic data to an immunization registry and/or public health agency, and follow up submission if the test is successful (unless none of the immunization registries or public health agencies to which the EP submits such information have the capacity to receive the information electronically).



Some registries (Kansas, Pennsylvania and Tennessee) require the use of bi-directional interfaces in order to allow electronic submissions to take place. This requirement exceeds the requirements set for the demonstration of Meaningful Use, which is a uni-directional pathway. While Allscripts applauds the advanced thinking of these registries, because this exceeds the requirements and creates an implementation conflict, Allscripts will not support a bi-directional communication pathway at this time.

From a compliance perspective, eligible professionals in these locales will meet the requirements and thus be incentive eligible, even though the submission "failed" due to local registry/PHA policies. The EHR client simply will be provided documentation of the failed attempt which will be adequate proof of meeting the objective.

2. Additional information required by registries.

Registries may require information that the Allscripts' EHR may not be able to collect. As in item #1, from a compliance perspective eligible professionals in these locales will meet the requirements and thus be incentive eligible, even though the submission "failed" due to local registry/PHA policies. The client simply will be provided documentation of the failed attempt which will be adequate proof of meeting the objective.

Point-to-Point Interfaces:²

Allscripts Enterprise and Professional EHRs offer immunization registry capabilities using custom point-to-point interfaces to a number of registries. Currently, Allscripts has implemented the following immunization registries as point-to-point connections:

Professional EHR

- Florida
- Georgia
- Michigan
- New York
- South Carolina

Enterprise EHR

- Arkansas
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Minnesota
- Utah

Clients may continue to use these point-to-point interfaces in pursuit of Meaningful Use. However, this will not exempt them from adopting the Stimulus Set in order to have an ARRA-certified EHR.

Scheduling

Because the status of these registries and agencies is highly fluid – several changes are noted every week – we encourage all clients to work with their Allscripts representative to incorporate state and/or local registry plans into their upgrade scheduling. We are committed to establishing a schedule that will help you meet the requirements for incentive funding.

² This list was current as of February 1, 2011. It is updated frequently, and as such should not be considered final.