Meaningful Use Syndromic Surveillance On-Boarding Instructions

Step 1: Registration

1. Complete the Syndromic Surveillance Registration Process

Note for Eligible Professionals: *Completion of this step assumes the data submitter has acquired and implemented an ONC certified health IT product capable of producing an HL7 2.3.1 or 2.5.1 syndromic surveillance message. HL7 2.5.1 is preferred for Meaningful Use Stage 1 and is required for Stage 2.

Step 2: Pre-testing

1. Review the syndromic surveillance implementation guides:

- Arkansas Department of Health Guidance on the PHIN Messaging Guide for Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department and Urgent Care Data
- PHIN Messaging Guide for Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department and Urgent Care Data (released August 2012)
- Addendum to PHIN Messaging Guide for Syndromic Surveillance (released August 2012)

Note: These guides serve as a reference for emergency departments and urgent care centers. The International Society for Disease Surveillance Meaningful Use Workgroup has developed recommendations for inpatient and ambulatory care data, but these recommendations have not yet been translated into a formal messaging guide. Until then, eligible hospitals and professionals may use the existing guides, to the extent possible, to develop syndromic surveillance messages for inpatient or ambulatory settings.

2. Use the certified EHR system to create a set of test messages according to the specifications in the implementation guides. Use of HL7 version 2.5.1 is preferred for Stage 1 and is required for Stage 2.The set of test messages should include at least one of each Admit Discharge Transfer (ADT) Message Trigger Type (i.e. A01, A03, A04, A08) the eligible hospital or professional intends to include in future submissions.

3. Validate the HL7 message using the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Syndromic HL7 V2.5.1 Validation Tool.

a) NIST Syndromic Web Address: http://hl7v2-ss-testing.nist.gov/mu-syndromic/
   a. Click on “Context-free Validation” and input message into the Message Content field.

i. The tool is intended for certifying 2014 Edition Meaningful Use EHR technology. *DO NOT SUBMIT TEST MESSAGES CONTAINING PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION.*

b. Save file as PDF and name the file: *Message Validation* Report.pdf

c. User will be asked to upload message validation report in the following step (Step 3: Testing).

b) NIST user instructions can be found under the "Documentation" tab at the NIST.

Additional testing tools below:

- **CDC Public Health Information Network Message Quality Framework (PHIN MQF)**
  - PHIN Message Quality Framework (MQF) tool. **Note:** The MQF tool is hosted on a public web site.

Please note: ADH will require the user to upload a validation report from NIST in order to place the provider/facility in a holding queue.

4. Address any errors identified by the validation tool.

Step 3: Testing

1. **Stage 1:** Upload successful or unsuccessful test message and validation report into MURCS.
2. **Stage 2:** Upload successful test messages into MURCS. Include Syndromic validation reports that indicate test messages are free of errors.

****CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTION ON "HOW TO UPLOAD A DOCUMENT INTO MURCS"****

Questions: Please contact Syndromic Surveillance: ADH.SYNDROMIC.MU@arkansas.gov

E-mail is not a secure mechanism of data transfer. DO NOT SUBMIT TEST MESSAGES CONTAINING PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION THROUGH EMAIL. The agency reviews the messages, ensuring they meet standards specified for Meaningful Use. Once review is complete, the agency provides communication about the outcome of testing that can be used for attestation purposes.

For Stage 1 of Meaningful Use, completion of testing satisfies the requirements for attestation.

Stage 2 will continue until production.

Step 4: In Queue

Eligible hospitals or professionals who have successfully submitted qualifying test messages are placed into the queue. ADH Program Coordinators work through the queue, giving priority to eligible hospitals and urgent care clinics.

We anticipate the length of the queue will grow as Meaningful Use progresses. To improve timeliness, please provide ADH with NIST message validation reports and test messages as soon as possible in your attestation process.

Once an eligible hospital or professional reaches the front of the queue, they will be notified by program staff when it is time to move on to Step 5: Validation.

Step 5: Validation

1. Select a data transport mechanism for ongoing submission of syndromic surveillance data.
Arkansas Department of Health supports the following transport options:

HIE/SHARE - (SHARE) Preferred Method
The Arkansas HIE is implemented. ***The connection to the agency is available for public health Meaningful Use messages.***
SOAP Web Service – (Direct to ADH) Preferred Method
Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) is a standard protocol specification for message exchange based on XML. Communication between the web service and client happens using XML messages. SOAP defines the rules for communication like what are all the tags that should be used in XML and their meaning.
SFTP
SFTP is a secure file transfer tool based on industry-standard Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS), hosted by Arkansas Department of Information Services (DIS).
VPN
VPN stands for Virtual Private Network. A VPN allows you to create a secure channel of communication (a.k.a. a "tunnel") over a public network such as the Internet. Security is provided through authentication, to ensure that the entity connecting is authorized, and through encryption, to protect the data in transit.
Vendor Defined Protocol
Software or Hardware based method for securing a channel between two organizations.

2. Set up a transport mechanism. To establish a connection, send an email to ADH.SYNDROMIC.MU@arkansas.gov to request information on how to set up a data transport mechanism with the agency.

3. Transmit a test message via the transport mechanism.

4. Begin ongoing submission and participate in validation activities.

Step 6: Production

1. Continue ongoing submission of syndromic surveillance data to public health.
If public health identifies a need to follow-up on data indicating an event of potential public health concern, they will contact data providers.

Eligible hospitals and professionals will be required to participate in periodic quality assurance checks to ensure accuracy of reporting. Arkansas Department of Health staff will contact data providers to schedule these activities.

Questions? Please contact Syndromic Surveillance: ADH.SYNDROMIC.MU@arkansas.gov