STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

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Lt. Governor

December 10, 2013

Connecticut Eligible Professionals and Hospitals:

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is committed to helping Connecticut providers and hospitals achieve meaningful use as defined by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. The HITECH Act authorizes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to make incentive payments to eligible professionals and eligible hospitals demonstrating meaningful use of Certified Electronic Health Record (CEHR) and Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) technology.

The DPH is Connecticut's designated entity to receive public health data. This letter describes the DPH Stage 1 and Stage 2 readiness for public health reporting for Meaningful Use.

Stage 1. Stage 1 Meaningful Use includes three public health measures that eligible professionals and eligible hospitals may demonstrate to be considered meaningful users of a CEHR or ELR. Eligible Professionals and Eligible Hospitals are required, under Stage 1 meaningful use, to choose at least one public health measure from the menu set of measures and demonstrate the capacity to submit electronic data for immunizations, reportable laboratory results, or syndromic surveillance unless claiming an exclusion.

As of **January 7, 2014, all** eligible professionals and eligible hospitals will be able to demonstrate the capacity to submit electronic data for public health reporting of immunizations as defined under Stage 1 via the DPH Meaningful Use Testing (MUST) Portal. Meaningful Use information, including the MUST Portal, can be found on the DPH Meaningful Use web page. Instructions for enrollment to use the Portal will be included on the DPH Meaningful Use Web page as we get closer to January 7, 2014. Upon completion of submission of a test immunization message on the MUST Portal, an attestation certificate will be generated for submission to the CMS Registration and Attestation system or Connecticut's Medical Assistance Provider Incentive Repository (MAPIR). Only submission of immunization messages is available for Stage 1 at this time; this letter should be saved and provided as an exemption for Stage 1 testing of reportable laboratory results and syndromic surveillance.

Stage 2. DPH currently does not yet have the capacity to receive data electronically from any CEHR system or ELR for immunization, syndromic surveillance, or reportable laboratory results. The standards and infrastructure are still being developed for this. Eligible professionals and eligible hospitals should save and provide this letter when attesting through the Connecticut's Medical Assistance Provider Incentive Repository (MAPIR) for Stage 2 meaningful use payments, under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive programs, respectively. However, DPH will be updating their readiness for Stage 2 for

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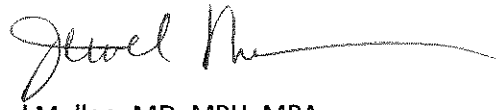
immunization reporting in early 2014 as onboarding capacity for immunization reporting is expected to be ready in the second quarter of 2014.

For Stage 2 immunization reporting, only certain eligible professionals and eligible hospitals will be considered for onboarding. These include only those eligible professionals or eligible hospitals who are primary health care providers administering immunizations in an outpatient setting for children from birth until first grade, as provided in section 19a-7h-3(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Additional information on Stage 2 onboarding requirements and qualifications will be posted on the DPH Meaningful Use webpage as well as the MUST Portal.

For assistance with the Connecticut Medicaid EHR Incentive Program application process, providers may call the state's Department of Social Services on its toll free help line at 1-855-313-6638. For Medicare and Medicaid, please refer to Stage 2 Overview Tip sheet and related links from CMS.GOV site.

Sincerely,



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