

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.  
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

July 7, 2014

Connecticut Eligible Professionals and Hospitals:

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is Connecticut's designated entity to receive public health data from eligible Connecticut professionals and hospitals for Stage 1 and Stage 2 Meaningful Use. This letter describes the DPH Stage 1 and Stage 2 readiness for public health reporting.

The DPH is committed to helping Connecticut providers and hospitals achieve meaningful use Stage 1 and Stage 2 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.

Status: Stage 1. Stage 1 Meaningful Use includes three public health measures that eligible professionals and eligible hospitals may demonstrate to have achieved. 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 issued by CMS that demonstrates their capacity to submit electronic data for immunizations, reportable laboratory results, or syndromic surveillance unless claiming an exclusion.

As of **August 5, 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 on or about **July 25, 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). Immunization message submission functionality is the only Stage 1 component available at this time. This letter should be retained and used as an attestation for an exemption for Stage 1 testing of reportable laboratory results and syndromic surveillance.

Status: Stage 2. DPH is currently working on the capability to receive data electronically from any CEHR system or ELR for immunization, syndromic surveillance, or reportable laboratory results. The standards



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and infrastructure are in the process of being developed. 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.

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 that are primary health care providers administering immunizations in an outpatient setting for children from birth to 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jewel Mullen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA  
Commissioner