

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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Office of the Commissioner

July 9, 2015

Connecticut Eligible Professionals and Hospitals:

This is an update regarding public health reporting for Meaningful Use ("MU") Stage 1 and Stage 2 in Connecticut.

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health ("DPH") remains committed to helping Connecticut providers and hospitals achieve MU as defined by the Health Information Technology 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 ("EPs") and eligible hospitals ("EHs") demonstrating MU of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology ("CEHRT") and Electronic Laboratory Reporting ("ELR") technology.

In Connecticut, DPH is the agency that receives the public health reporting data identified in the MU menu objectives. Specifically, DPH receives immunization registry, syndromic surveillance, reportable laboratory results and cancer case data.

DPH has been actively working with EPs and EHs, among others, to help EPs and EHs meet the MU public health reporting requirements to qualify for MU incentives. In addition, DPH has been actively exploring ways to upgrade its current public health reporting systems to meet MU standards. The following is a summary of DPH's current MU status.

DPH has developed and operationalized the meaningful use state testing ("MUST") portal for immunization registry data. Through the MUST, an EP or an EH can demonstrate the technical capability of its CEHRT to submit immunization data in a manner that complies with the requirements of MU Stage 1 and Stage 2. The MUST portal is strictly a test portal. The MUST portal does not accept ongoing submissions of data. A provider attesting to MU in Program Year 2015 or thereafter must meet the immunization registry measure in the manner described immediately below. Providers who do not administer immunizations during the relevant reporting period may choose an exclusion for this measure.



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For Stage 1 MU regarding immunization registry data, the final rule requires an EP or EH to successfully perform at least one test of the EP's or EH's CEHRT's ability to submit electronic data to an immunization registry. For Stage 2 MU, an EP or EH must demonstrate successful ongoing submission of electronic immunization data from a CEHRT to an immunization registry. Since DPH cannot support ongoing continuous submission of immunization data in a manner that complies with MU criteria at this time, per CMS guidance, an EP or EH must repeat MUST portal testing annually to meet MU Stages 1 and 2 for MU immunization reporting. This requirement will remain in effect until DPH is ready to continuously accept electronic immunization data submissions in a MU compliant manner. DSS, therefore, will accept MUST portal testing certificates for MU Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Currently, DPH does not have the capability to accept syndromic surveillance data or test data in a MU compliant manner; however, DPH is actively seeking funding to obtain a system that will allow it to receive such data in a MU compliant manner.

Regarding ELR results, DPH is operationalizing a system that allows it to accept ELR results in a MU compliant manner and anticipates that the guide for the ELR system will be published July 31, 2015.

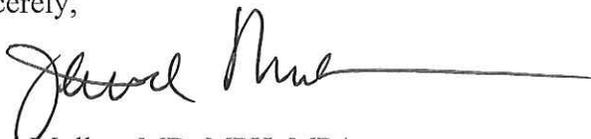
Currently, DPH cannot accept cancer registry data electronically in a MU compliant manner. DPH is beginning to operationalize a system that will allow it to accept cancer registry data in a MU compliant manner. DPH anticipates that it will be ready to accept data from EPs in a MU compliant manner in 2016.

Given DPH's current ability to accept data in a MU compliant manner, an exclusion will still apply for MU Stage 1 and Stage 2 for electronic laboratory results and syndromic surveillance data and for Stage 2 for reportable cancer cases for EPs.

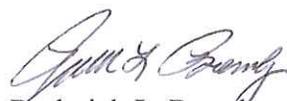
Since DPH is actively working towards meaningful use, we encourage you to frequently check our website (<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3936&Q=462960>) to obtain timely updates and learn more about MU.

For additional assistance with the Connecticut Medicaid EHR Incentive Program application process, providers may call the state's toll free help line at 1-855-313-6638.

Sincerely,



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Commissioner  
Department of Public Health



Roderick L. Bremby  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services