

## Stage 1

There are no changes to the existing process in submitting a test message through the MUST Portal for Stage 1.

## Stage 2

If your practice is not a pediatric or family practice, your practice will not be in the group that will be electronically reporting for CIRTS as defined by CT law and regulations. You should be able to claim the exclusion for the immunization measure for Stage 2 per [DPH/DSS Meaningful Use Stage 1 & 2 in CT](#). **(Click on link to go the letter)**

If your practice is a pediatric or family practice who gives routine immunizations to children 0 to first grade (6 years), your practice will need to register in the MUST Portal and following the same procedure to submit a test for Stage 2 as you had done for Stage 1.

Routine immunizations are approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ([ACIP](#)) and is available from [Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years United States, 2015](#). **(Click on link for routine immunizations)**

To send a test message instructions are in Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 of the MUST Portal Guide and describes how to read the validation status.

**But before you can do this**, you need to determine how you need to register in the MUST. You may have to ask your vendor on how to generate the file, where is located on your local implementation. If you've been speaking with the sales group you will not get the help you're looking for. Sales groups think your question is for establishing on-going submission solution costing you in the thousands of dollars. Please reach out your technical support as the generation of this file. MUST Portal is not used for ongoing submission but testing HL7 structure only and done only once a year for MU.

If you have any questions or would like to perform the test with someone from DPH while on the phone, we will surely accommodate you. The test should not take more than a few minutes if you have the test message in a file or can cut and paste in the MUST Portal test message box.

## Testing Process for CIRTS

We have been getting many questions from providers. We are providing some clarification on who does what:

The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) -Accredited Testing Laboratories (ATLs) as set forth in the final rule establishing the Permanent Certification Program (*Establishment of the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, 45 CFR Part 170; February 7, 2011*). It is this organization that grant the certification and maintains which EHER software has certified to which standards. Currently there are two standards available. 2011 Edition Test Method (HL7 version 2.3.1) and the 2014 Edition Test Method (HL7 version 2.5.1).

*CT DPH has no control over what any of the vendors implement or certified to. CT DPH has no control over what was purchased by any practice in CT.*

For CT Immunization registry, CIRTS, the only HL7 version that is accepted is HL7 version 2.5.1 Release 1.4. CT IIS Local HL7 Guide has been published on our web site since 8/29/2013. We are working with vendors through the MUST portal to verify that their structure meets HL7 version 2.5.1 structure first. After passing the structure test, CT DPH is using the NIST web site to perform the [2014 Edition Test Procedure for §170.314\(f\)\(2\) Transmission to immunization registries Approved Test Procedure Version 1.3 dated January 16, 2013](#). *(Click on link for testing procedure)*

This is a DPH decision to make sure that CIRTS is compliant as a registry to the national standards.

***This testing process for Immunization will only apply to pediatric and family practices that provide routine immunizations as define by CT law and regulations. Only practices with EHR systems that can pass these standards will be put into the ongoing submission.***

During our testing process in staging environment, we perform this work as part of onboarding process.

CT DPH is in contact with many of the larger market share EHR vendors used by providers in the state. CT DPH is working with vendors on all of the 7 NIST test messages based on the 7 NIST Test scenarios. CT DPH verifies that the test messages are formatted correctly and that the content is valid using the NIST tool for immunization registry submissions. All of the vendors that we have engaged with are still making changes to their HL7 interfaces to fix any problems but we fully expect that they will comply with the requirements.

***Please, if your practice is a pediatric or family practice who gives routine immunization to children 0 to first grade, send us an e-mail to the [dph.cirts@ct.gov](mailto:dph.cirts@ct.gov) (click on address link) address telling us what EHR product and vendor you're using. We want to start the follow up process with additional EHR vendors and their product(s). This information will be greatly appreciated for follow-up.***