Frequently Asked Questions: Technical Application of Use Cases

A. **What are the requirements of my site to meet Meaningful Use for Immunization Submission?**

   You must be using a certified Electronic Health Record (EHR), and test submission of an appropriate VXU HL7 message to the I-CARE immunization registry. The message payload must be either version 2.3.1 or 2.5.1 of HL7. Alternatives to using a certified EHR to create this message are a) having a self-certified system; b) using a vendor that is certified for the modular components for public health data submission; c) submitting data to a qualified Health Information Exchange (HIE). Of note, the method of transport of the message payload to the registry (e.g., type of interface engine, and type of transport method) is not a part of the Meaningful Use requirements.

   What are the requirements of my site to meet Meaningful Use for Electronic Laboratory Reporting?

   You must be using a certified Electronic Health Record (EHR), and test submission of an appropriate ORU HL7 message to the I-NEDDS communicable disease registry. The message must be version 2.5.1 of HL7. The submission system must be certified by an appropriate body, e.g. CCHIT. Alternatives to using a certified EHR are a) having a self-certified system; b) using a vendor that is certified for the modular components for public health data submission; c) submitting data to a qualified Health Information Exchange (HIE). Of note, the method of transport of the message payload to the registry (e.g., type of interface engine, and type of transport method) is not a part of the meaningful use requirements.

B. **Is Syndromic Surveillance an available Meaningful Use menu item for Illinois Public Health Reporting?**

No, at this time Illinois cannot receive data for Syndromic Surveillance, though this is planned for the future.

C. **What type of transport mechanism is needed for data submission to the Immunization Registry and Electronic Laboratory Reporting? What type of data format is required?**

As noted, the method of transport to I-CARE and I-NEDDS at this time is Secure FTP. Though other methods of transport functionality may be required for certification, SFTP is the method to submit data to Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) registries. The data format is the specified version of HL7.   Of note, the method of transport of the message payload to the registry (e.g., type of interface engine, and type of transport method) is not a part of the meaningful use requirements.

D. **I have been told that we have to use a specific transport method to submit data to the state for meaningful use, e.g. Direct, or web services, or a custom interface from a vendor. Is this true?**

No, this is not true. Though the certifying body may test to see if certain functionalities are available for vendor products, these methods are not required to test messaging to the state at this time.

E. **What options do I have if I cannot afford a vendor solution, or the vendor proposed rate is too high?**

IDPH is developing an entity called a public health node, which is infrastructure to streamline reporting to state registries. The node will be able to accept a variety of data formats, and submit data appropriately to public health agencies. The service will initially be provided without charge, though sustainability plans are being examined. The node will be certified by CCHIT, and submission of data to the node will meet Meaningful Use criteria for a provider or

health system. If you or your system is interested in this approach, or for more information,

contact Mary Driscoll at Mary.Driscoll@Illinois.gov.