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PUBLIC HEALTH MEANINGFUL USE MEASURES

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Iowa Providers:

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is committed to helping Iowa providers achieve meaningful use of health information technology.

Current status:

- Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) does not have the capacity to receive immunization data electronically from electronic health records. The IDPH is in the process of transitioning to a web-based software application that will allow immunization data to be submitted electronically through IRIS and eventually transition to the Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN). Final file specifications will be posted on the IRIS [website](#) in May 2012.
- IDPH is capable to begin assisting facilities achieve Stage 1 Meaningful Use for electronic laboratory reporting (ELR). The IDPH is working with the IHIN vendor to implement ELR capabilities through the IHIN. The implementation guide for electronic laboratory reporting and testing with the IDSS system will be distributed in March at the first in a series of Meaningful Use for ELR workshops. For more information about the workshop series and the implementation guide, visit <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/idss.asp>.
- IDPH does not maintain a syndromic surveillance data registry at present and therefore cannot accept syndromic data electronically from electronic health records. The IDPH is conducting an assessment to determine if syndromic data will be electronically collected in the future; however there has not been any decision made at this time.

Please see the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document with additional information.

Sincerely,

Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health

**FAQ for Meaningful Use and Public Health
March 2012**

Q: The final meaningful use rule requires Eligible Providers “EPs” and Eligible Hospitals “EHs” to report on a total of five meaningful use objectives from the menu set. When selecting five objectives from the menu set, EPs and EHs must choose one option from the public health menu set (two available for EPs, three for EHs). How should providers handle this?

A: For more detailed information please go to https://questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/10162/kw/public%20health.

Q: In other words, can a provider or hospital achieve Stage 1 Meaningful Use even if their state is not set up to electronically accept the meaningful use public health objectives?

A: Yes, by following the instructions above.

Q: When will the IDPH be ready to accept Immunization records electronically from an EHR (EP/EH menu option)?

A: The IDPH is working to implement electronic reporting capabilities. We anticipate this functionality will be available in Q4 of 2012. The department is in the process of transitioning to a web-based software application that will allow for this to be done. The exchange of immunization records will occur initially through IRIS, then transition to go through the IHIN. The long-term goal is to seamlessly submit information from EHRs to IRIS through a direct connection with the IHIN. An implementation guide will be posted on the IRIS [website](#) in May 2012.

Q: When will the IDPH be ready to accept reportable lab results electronically from an EHR (EH menu option)?

A: The long-term goal is to seamlessly submit information from lab information systems or EHRs to IDSS through the IHIN. An implementation guide for constructing messages will be released at the first in a series of workshops scheduled for March 22, 2012. See more details about the workshop series at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/idss.asp>. IDPH will begin accepting test messages during the last week of March 2012 following the process described in the IDPH implementation guide. The IDPH is working with the IHIN vendor to implement electronic reporting capabilities, but a timeline for establishing connections through the IHIN has not been solidified.