

Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR)- Stage 1 Meaningful Use Implementation Guidance

Background

The vision of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 ([HITECH](#)) is to improve the health of Americans and the performance of the nation's health system through health information technology. It is no longer enough for healthcare providers to purchase an electronic medical records system; the purpose of HITECH is to ensure that these systems are interoperable and that providers use these systems in a meaningful way.

One of the HITECH goals is to improve Population and Public Health. Achieving this goal requires that:

- Providers use certified records systems with the capability to exchange information among disparate systems; and
- Nationwide standards for information exchange are established and used;
- Patient record privacy and security is maintained.

Eligible Professionals and Hospitals must complete at least one out of three available public health objectives to meet Meaningful Use. Electronic Reporting (ELR) is one of the public health options for Stage 1 Meaningful Use.

This document describes the process for meeting the ELR Public Health Option in order to receive incentive payments. Only hospitals are able to apply for ELR approval.

There are three steps to Meaningful Use:

1. Acquire a certified EHR system or module,
2. Use the system as the rules require, and
3. Attest that the data was submitted as required.

Technical assistance for providers is available through a [Regional Extension Center Program \(REC\)](#). [Monetary incentives](#) are available to providers who are meaningful users.

STAGE 1

Eligible Hospitals Seeking Meaningful Use Attestation

Laboratory Reporting/ELR:

UDOH is ready to accept tests of submission on October 1, 2011 (which will provide for the 90 day requirement for 2011)

If your facility wishes to begin tests of submission, please fill out the ELR intent form and email to the ELR Coordinator or fax it to (801) 538-9923 (Attn: ELR Coordinator).

Message Transmission

Messages must be submitted in a secured manner. UDOH is capable of receiving messages through PHIN-MS, direct connections (sFTP or TCP), or via the [Utah Health Information Network \(UHIN\)](#).

Message Format

Messages must be in [HL7 ver 2.5.1 data exchange format](#). Submitters will validate their message format using [Message Quality Framework](#) prior to submitting to public health.

Message Content

Messages should contain: Patient identifier, date of birth, sex, and contact information; Reporting facility, contact information, and date; Specimen collection date, source, reference range, test performed and result; and Ordering physician. Test messages must use current [LOINC](#) codes for the test performed and current [SNOMED-CT](#) codes for the test result.

To qualify for Stage 1 Meaningful Use, you must attempt to send a message to public health until you are successful. Successful means to send an MQF-approved message, with LOINC code in OBR-4; OBX-3 and SNOMED-CT code in OBX-5 and have it transmitted securely and received in appropriate format at Utah Department of Health.

When the test is successful, public health strongly encourages all facilities to continue to use ELR to submit reportable conditions. The ELR coordinator will work with you to start that process.

Resources

1. Office of the National Coordinator- Regulations and Information on Meaningful Use
<http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=2996&mode=2>
2. Regional Extension Center for Utah – Health Insight
<http://www.healthinsight.org/Internal/REC.html>
3. Utah's Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment Program
<http://health.utah.gov/medicaid/provhtml/HIT.htm>
4. Utah Health Information Network (UHIN)
<http://mychie.org/community/>
5. HL7 version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide: Electronic Laboratory Reporting to Public Health, Release 1
<https://www.hl7.org/store/index.cfm?ref=nav>
6. Public Health Information Network's Message Quality Framework (MQF)
<http://www.cdc.gov/phn/resources/certification/MQFtool-overview.html>
7. LOINC codes
<http://loinc.org/>
8. SNOMED-CT codes
<http://www.ihtsdo.org/snomed-ct/>

Key Contacts for Electronic Laboratory Reporting

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