



ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL USE WITH WISHIN PULSE

BACKGROUND ON MEANINGFUL USE

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) developed programs that provide incentive payments to eligible hospitals (EHs) and critical access hospitals (CAHs) when they use electronic health records (EHRs) to achieve specified improvements in care delivery. The goal of the incentive programs is to promote the “Meaningful Use” of EHRs—which means that providers must use EHRs to achieve “significant improvements in care.”

Health care providers use a variety of EHR systems, and even in cases where providers are using the same EHR software, they may not be connected. Health information exchange (HIE) provides interoperability among EHRs and is an important component of Meaningful Use.

Each stage of Meaningful Use sets progressively higher requirements for interoperability and electronic exchange of health information. **This fact sheet addresses how WISHIN can help eligible organizations meet the Meaningful Use requirements related to submitting syndromic surveillance data to the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.**

SUMMARY OF MEANINGFUL USE SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE OBJECTIVE

The Stage 1 Meaningful Use objective for syndromic surveillance is one of ten “menu” set objectives for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals. EHs and CAHs must choose five of the ten menu set



objectives to meet, and at least one of the five they choose has to be a public health objective. If your organization chooses syndromic surveillance as one of its Stage 1 objectives, you have to perform at least one test of your Certified EHR technology's capacity to provide electronic syndromic surveillance data to the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. If the test is successful, you must also perform a follow-up submission. The transmission of the syndromic surveillance information for Stage 1 must be compliant with the standards at 45 CFR 170.302(l).

For Stage 2, the Meaningful Use objective for syndromic surveillance is a core measure for EHS and CAHs. The objective was expanded in Stage 2 to require successful "ongoing" submission of the syndromic surveillance data to the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (from your Certified EHR technology) rather than just the test and follow-up that was required in Stage 1.

In order to meet this objective and measure, EHS and CAHs must use the capabilities and standards of Certified EHR Technology at 45 CFR 170.314(f)(3). However, if an organization has achieved successful ongoing submission prior to 2014 (CY2014 for EPs and FY2014 for hospitals) using EHR technology Certified to the 2011 Edition EHR Certification Criteria, it is acceptable to continue this ongoing submission to meet the Stage 2 measure.

For more information on Meaningful Use please go to www.healthit.gov or www.cms.gov.

SUBMITTING SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE DATA VIA WISHIN PULSE

The Wisconsin Statewide Health Information Network (WISHIN) is a Wisconsin Division of Public Health approved option for organizations to meet the Meaningful Use syndromic surveillance objectives.

WISHIN Pulse, WISHIN's health information exchange product, allows organizations to submit syndromic surveillance data from their certified EHR technology to the Wisconsin Division of Public Health through a single interface. WISHIN Pulse supports both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 transmission specifications. Prior to passing syndromic surveillance data to the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, WISHIN validates and, if necessary, transforms the syndromic surveillance data to ensure compliance with the necessary standards.



Wisconsin Statewide Health Information Network

WISHIN is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing the benefits of widespread, secure, interoperable health information technology to patients and caregivers throughout Wisconsin. To learn more about how WISHIN Pulse could benefit your practice, call us today at 608-274-1820.