



What is the NDIIS?

The North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) is a confidential, population-based, computerized information system that attempts to collect vaccination data about all North Dakotans. The NDIIS is an important tool to increase and sustain high vaccination coverage by consolidating vaccination records of children from multiple providers, generating reminder and recall vaccination notices for each child and providing official vaccination forms and vaccination coverage assessments. Children are entered into the NDIIS at birth through a linkage with electronic birth records. An NDIIS vaccination record also can be initiated by a health-care provider at the time of a child's first immunization. The NDIIS has the capability of collecting vaccination data on adult patients, as well as children.

What is Meaningful Use?

In 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Congress authorized more than \$25 billion in incentive payments to hospitals and health-care providers to facilitate the adoption of meaningful use of certified electronic health records (EHRs). Incentive payments of up to \$44,000 through the Medicare incentive program, or \$63,750 through the Medicaid incentive program can be made to eligible professions and hospitals.

To receive incentive payments, providers must meet and maintain a set of meaningful use measures using a certified EHR. Meaningful use employs a three-stage approach, with each stage building on the preceding stage. To demonstrate stage one of meaningful use, an eligible professional must comply with 15 "core" requirements and five of 10 "menu" requirements.

For more information on the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs, visit www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/.

How Does NDIIS Affect Meaningful Use Requirements?

Improving population health through prevention of vaccine-preventable disease is a goal of the EHR incentive program. Attainment of this goal will be realized through establishment of connectivity between EHRs and immunization information systems or registries, such as the NDIIS. Submission of immunization data to registries is one of the ten "menu" requirements available to satisfy meaningful use criteria.

NDIIS Interoperability with EHRs is supported by the North Dakota Health Information Technology (HIT) Advisory Committee and is included in the North Dakota HIT Strategic and Operational Plan. For more information about North Dakota HIT, visit www.healthit.nd.gov/.

What is the Status of NDIIS Interoperability with EHRs?

The NDIIS currently does not connect with any EHRs. The NDDoH received a grant in October 2010 to enhance the ability of the NDIIS to connect with EHRs. The objectives are that by the end of the grant period in August 2012, the NDDoH will increase the number of EHR-NDIIS practice-based connections available, increase the number of practice-based electronic immunization transactions reported to the NDIIS each week, and maintain the percent of immunization data received by the NDIIS in a timely manner. Other grant activities include participating on a federal interoperability panel of experts, selecting which provider practices and EHRs to connect to, developing implementation and sustainability plans for interoperability, implementing

interoperability specifications in the NDIIS and selected EHRs, and evaluating the success of this activity. Funding was requested for contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND), the NDIIS vendor, and various provider practices and their EHR vendors. Participating provider practices and EHR vendors will be prioritized based on the volume of children immunized. The NDDoH will contact high volume providers for participation in this initiative.

What is the NDIIS-EHR Interoperability Testing Process?

BCBSND, who maintains the NDIIS, is in the process of developing a testing process to ensure NDIIS will be ready to support EPs and hospitals in meeting the immunization meaningful use measure. This functionality is currently unavailable and is not expected to be available until 2nd Quarter 2011.

In the future, testing to certify for meaningful use will be conducted in a *test environment* using the version 2.5.1 or 2.3.1 HL7 VXU message.

HL7 Specifications for NDIIS interoperability with EHRs are available at: www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/ndiis.

If your organization is interested in testing for meaningful use certification, please email the following 6 items to msander@nd.gov:

1. Organization Name and Address
2. Individual National Provider Identifier (NPIs) or Medicare Certification Number
3. Contact Person Name, Position, Email address, Phone number
4. EHR Name and Version number
5. Version(s) of HL7 supported by your EHR
6. Can your EHR already create a VXU message (any version of HL7)?

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) will contact interested organizations as soon as the testing process is available.

Additional Information:

Additional information is available at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize/ndiis or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

