

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Office Informatics and Analytics (OIA)**

*For more information contact the Tennessee Meaningful Use Coordinator*

## **Introduction**

In Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) oversees the testing and on-boarding of providers participating in Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive programs. Under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, eligible health care professionals and hospitals can qualify for incentive payments when they Adopt, Implement, or Upgrade to Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) and use it to achieve specified meaningful objectives.

TDH is working with providers, hospitals, electronic health record (EHR) vendors, and Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) vendors to accept reportable diseases and conditions information, immunization data, and cancer case reports in a meaningful manner to improve public health in Tennessee using CEHRT.

## **Registration of Intent for Meaningful Use Public Health Objectives**

Eligible Professionals (EPs), eligible clinicians, eligible hospitals (EHs), critical access hospitals (CAHs), and vendors seeking to participate in the EHR Incentive Program, and who are pursuing progressive stages of Meaningful Use or Advancing Care Information category of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), can register their intent for Public Health Reporting measures using the Trading Partner Registration (TPR) system at <https://apps.tn.gov/tpr>.

TPR is an online registration system that should be used by all potential trading partners to register their intent to exchange data electronically with the TDH, including those potential trading partners participating in incentive programs. Once the registration has been submitted, the Public Health Reporting interface responsible for on-boarding will review the submitted registration and approve if submitted accurately. After being approved, users can continue to use the TPR System to monitor progress through the on-boarding process. New users may request training online for the TPR system. [Click here](#) to see a listing of training dates and times.

## **Testing**

Testing will begin after the registration of intent has been completed and approved. TDH staff will then contact the potential trading partner with further instructions or requirements for testing. Program area fact sheets, checklists, and onboarding documents can be found at the TDH MU web page - <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/meaningful-use-summary/public-health-reporting-options.html>.

At some point during the onboarding process, potential trading partners may be required to sign a Trading Partner Agreement (TPA). TDH requires the use of Health Level 7 (HL7) messaging for the electronic transmission of immunization data, syndromic surveillance, electronic laboratory reporting, and cancer case reporting from all potential trading partners.

**Note:** The amount of time until live data exchange can start varies and depends upon the quality and speed of data exchange testing.

## **TDH Meaningful Use Program Areas:**

1. **Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR):** Reports of laboratory results indicating diseases declared to be communicable and/or dangerous to the public are to be reported to the TN Department of Health. A list of these conditions, diseases, and events can be found by visiting the Tennessee Department of Health Reportable Disease site – <https://apps.health.tn.gov/ReportableDiseases>.

**To learn more:** Please visit <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/laboratory-reporting.html> for specific details related to on-boarding and testing. Contact the TDH Surveillance Systems and Informatics Program (SSIP) for additional information at [CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov](mailto:CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov).

2. **Syndromic Surveillance Messaging (SSM):** is the electronic submission of standards based inpatient and ambulatory clinical care EHR data for the purpose of public health syndromic surveillance. TDH implemented a standardized and centralized SSM system for which TDH declared readiness for EH's (*w/Emergency Room*) in October of 2015.

**To learn more:** Please visit <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/meaningful-use-summary.html> for specific details related to on-boarding and testing. Contact the TDH Surveillance Systems and Informatics Program (SSIP) for additional information at [CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov](mailto:CEDS.Informatics@tn.gov).

3. **Tennessee Immunization Information System (TennIIS):** TennIIS gives authorized immunizing providers the ability to submit and obtain comprehensive vaccine records on any patient(s) in the TennIIS system. TennIIS accepts immunizations administered in **any** clinical setting by **any** authorized immunizing provider to recipients of **all ages**.

**To learn more:** Please visit <https://www.tennesseeiis.gov/tnsiis/> for specific details related to on-boarding and testing. Contact the TennIIS team for additional information at [TennIIS.MU@tn.gov](mailto:TennIIS.MU@tn.gov).

4. **Cancer Case Reporting:** The TN Cancer Registry (TCR) is legislatively mandated to collect all reportable cancer diagnoses in TN, including non-residents diagnosed in TN, and to provide a statistical report annually to the TN General Assembly on the cancer burden in TN. For information about TN Cancer Case Reporting, please visit <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/tcr.html> for specific details.

**To learn more:** Please visit <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/tcr/physician-reporting-under-meaningful-use.html> for specific details related to on-boarding and testing. Contact the TDH Cancer Registry for additional information at [TNCancer.Registry@tn.gov](mailto:TNCancer.Registry@tn.gov).

**Note:** At this time, TDH is not currently participating in testing Specialized Registry reporting for Meaningful Use Modified Stage 2.

#### **Transport Options:**

1. **Secure File Transport (SFTP)** can be used to electronically exchange batched messages with **ELR, SSM, TennIIS** and **TCR**.
2. **Web Services:** Current implementation of Web Services supports **Asynchronous** communication to the **TennIIS** system and is implemented by Basic Authentication over SSL. For copies of the **TDH WSDL** please send an email request to the TDH MU Coordinator at [MU.Health@tn.gov](mailto:MU.Health@tn.gov).
3. **Direct secure email:** Providers who have an EHR with Direct capability and/or who are connected to a certified Health Information Service Provider (HISP) can attach or insert HL7 messages into a direct secure e-mail. The Direct secure e-mail will be routed through the state HISP to **TCR** and an acknowledgement message routed back to the sender.

**Note:** The sender's HISP has to be an EHNAC/Direct Trust accredited HISP ([www.directtrust.org](http://www.directtrust.org)).

To learn more please contact the TDH Meaningful Use Coordinator at (615) 253-8945 or email [MU.Health@tn.gov](mailto:MU.Health@tn.gov).