

Submitting Meaningful Use Data to State Agencies

A Dynamic Health IT, Inc. White Paper

Problem

Stage 2 MU requires successful ongoing submission of Public Health and Immunization data to state agencies but HL7 messages from vendor EHRs are generally not accepted without modification and a lengthy approval process.

Goals

Streamline the submission process to state agencies and unburden EHRs and EPs from having to customize HL7 messages for each state.

Results

The Registry Hub is a two part system that collects messages on site and transmits them to the DHIT server, where the messages are transformed into the correct format and sent to the appropriate agency.

Background

Founded in 1999, Dynamic Health IT specializes in integration and exchange of healthcare data.

The Challenge

Our challenge was to utilize our technology and expertise to develop an efficient process for submitting these HL7 messages with acceptable content and format for each registry and state agency.

The Solution

Dynamic Health IT (DHIT) offers a Registry Hub that handles the submission of these messages. The Registry Hub has two components:

- 1) An Agent that is installed at each client site. The Agent gathers messages and securely transmit to the DHIT Server, as follows:
 - a. It accepts HL7 messages from a file folder (one or more messages per file). It polls for any files in a designated folder, processes them and archives them.
 - b. It accepts HL7 messages on a TCP/IP socket connection and sends back an HL7 acknowledgement.
 - c. It uses encryption and a web service to transmit the messages to the DHIT server. Since the messages are encrypted, no VPN tunnel is required. The Agent only needs Internet access in order to call the DHIT web service, which runs on a hosted server and decrypts the messages. Encryption meets HIPAA/HITECH encryption requirements.

- 2) The DHIT Server, which is cloud-based. The Server is responsible for accepting the messages from the Agent, manipulating them as needed and sending the messages to the appropriate agency. The Server:
 - a. Decrypts the messages from the Agent.
 - b. Runs the HL7Connect interface engine from Kestral. Clients may have limited access HL7Connect logins to stop, start and monitor their interfaces.
 - c. Uses HL7Connect to make any changes to the messages, including mapping, reformatting and hard-coding values.
 - d. Send messages to each agency using the agency's preferred transport method.
 - i. DHIT will encourage use of Direct Protocol, wherever possible. We use MaxMD as our certified HISP.

*Dynamic Health IT, Inc.
4016 Canal St., First Floor
New Orleans, LA 70119
(504) 309-9103
info@dynamichealthit.com*

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Health IT**
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