

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 record systems (EHRs). Incentive payments are made to eligible professionals 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.

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

Detailed information about the different stages of meaningful use can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ehrmeaningfuluse/>.

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 (IIS), such as the NDIIS. Submission of immunization data to an IIS is one of the measures available to satisfy Meaningful Use criteria. Among the significant provisions in the Meaningful Use regulations are the endorsement of a single standard, HL7 2.5.1, for all immunization messages submitted from EHR systems to IIS, and the requirement for "ongoing submission" of production immunization data (as opposed to test data) to an IIS. Additionally, Stage 3 Meaningful Use requires a fully bi-directional query/response connection between the EHR and IIS.

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 is currently connected with almost 400 individual provider locations and the North Dakota Health Information Network (NDHIN). The NDIIS supports bi-directional messaging and SOAP web transport using the standard CDC WSDL for direct connections. Providers can also connect to the NDIIS via the NDHIN. Provider practices wanting to connect to the NDIIS need to fill out and submit the NDIIS Registration of Intent form. Providers will be prioritized for interoperability based on the volume of immunizations given and the readiness of the EHR to meet North Dakota specific requirements.

What is the NDIIS-EHR Interoperability Testing Process?

The NDIIS interoperability team has developed an on-boarding and testing process that ensures the NDIIS will be ready to support eligible providers and hospitals in meeting the immunization Meaningful Use measure. Before the formal on-boarding testing process can begin, the provider must complete all required forms and agreements.

HL7 Specifications for NDIIS interoperability with EHRs are available at:

<https://www.health.nd.gov/immunize/ndiis/interoperability>

If your organization is interested in connecting to the NDIIS, please fill out the NDIIS Registration of Intent and Roles and Responsibilities Matrix forms at:

<https://www.health.nd.gov/immunize/ndiis/interoperability>

Providers connecting directly to the NDIIS must complete the Memorandum of Understanding found at: <https://www.health.nd.gov/immunize/ndiis/interoperability>. Providers wishing to connect via the NDHIN should visit their website (<https://www.nd.gov/itd/statewide-alliances/ndhin>) to complete all required forms and agreements.

Once all required forms and agreements have been submitted, you will be placed in queue for connecting. The NDIIS team will reach out to the designated contacts to formally begin the on-boarding process.

Additional Information:

Additional information is available at <https://www.health.nd.gov/immunize/ndiis/interoperability> by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

