

Immunization Message Submissions for Meaningful Use

Puerto Rico Immunization Registry (PRIR) is used to record all immunizations for residents of Puerto Rico. PRIR is a free, computerized internet database application, developed to record and track immunization dates of Puerto Rico's children and adults; providing assistance for keeping everyone on track for their recommended immunizations. Currently, PRIR receives data from hospital systems, vital records offices, local health departments, private providers, Medicaid, and schools.

During December 2008 through July 2009, the Secretary of Health approved four (4) Administrative Orders to increase the data entered to the registry and these are:

- All providers who administered vaccines from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are obligated to enter all data from these administered vaccines into the IIS.
- All Healthcare Facilities of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are obligated to administer the flu vaccine to all their personnel and enter this information to the IIS.
- All Health Insurance Plan (public or private) are obligated to provide the H1N1 vaccine to all high risk clients and report the information to the IIS.
- All Healthcare Organizations (public or private) are obligated to provide the flu vaccine to all high risk groups (pregnant women, children between the ages of 6 months to 18 years old, adults who are 50 years old or older, and anyone who is 6 months old or older with a chronic disease, etc.) and enter this information into the IIS.

The Puerto Rico Immunization Program is encouraging providers and hospitals to send immunization data to meet their Meaningful Use (MU) obligation.

Meaningful Use

PRIR accepts immunization data in the HL7 2.5.1 message formats for Stage 1 and 2. To meet Meaningful Use, submission of immunization information will need to be sent from a Certified EHR Technology (CEHRT), in the correct HL7 format, and conform to PRIR technical specifications.

PRIR Data Exchange Process

PRIR has developed a testing process to support eligible Providers (EPs) and eligible hospitals (EHs) in meeting the immunization Meaningful Use measure.

PRIR will accept Meaningful Use tests submitted using PRIR secure web site (<https>). The test files must include minimum ten (10) records of production data. If the message content contains errors then the test fails and the provider can review the response file and submit the file again. If the test succeeds, the provider is encouraged to implement regular reporting of immunization information to PRIR.

For ongoing immunization data submission to PRIR, batch data submissions are supported as one-way data transmissions.

How to initiate Meaningful Use test process

- Healthcare providers or EHR vendors should contact the PRIR Program Analyst, Norma Castro (787) 765-2929 ext. 3329 or PRIR Data Manager Verónica Rodríguez (787) 765-2929 ext. 3326, to initiate the data exchange process.
- PRIR staff will discuss PRIR specifications, required fields, transport options, and testing protocol via conference call.
- Test files will need to be created by vendor/healthcare entity and provided to PRIR staff. Layout and data will be checked to determine if appropriate with feedback provided as necessary.
- Once layout and data are deemed to be appropriate, access to the PRIR server will be granted to appropriate provider/vendor personnel along with the web address and the key for data transport.
- Typically (2) weeks to (1) month is required for testing.
- Once the healthcare provider/vendor is ready to go live, the account will be changed to production. For the first 60 days, all data goes through a pre-processor to ensure data integrity and any issues seen are relayed back to the healthcare provider.
- After 60 days, the need for preprocessing is removed and the interface is deemed live.

Guides and Specifications

The Final Rule for Health Information Technology (July, 2010) identified HL7 2.5.1 and HL7 2.3.1 as data exchange standards for submission to immunization registries and HL7 Standard Code Set CVX ² Vaccines Administered as the vocabulary standard for submission to immunization registries. While both HL7 2.5.1, HL-7 2.4 and HL7 2.3.1 are supported by PRIR, HL7 2.5.1 is recommended. Relevant links to the standards follow:

- Immunization Information Systems (IIS) standards Health Level Seven (HL7) (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/func-stds.html>)
- HL7 Version 2.5.1 Implementation guide for immunization messaging, Release 1.5 (11/5/2014) (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/technical-guidance/hl7.html>)
- HL7 Standard code set CVX - Vaccines administered (<http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/IIS/IISStandards/vaccines.asp?rpt=cvx>)
- PRIR web site (<https://prir.salud.gov.pr/>)

EHR Vendor Connected to PRIR

- Surescripts
- STC
- Costco