

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
 Meaningful Use Syndromic Surveillance and Electronic Laboratory Reporting Objectives

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do these abbreviations mean?

- a. MU- Meaningful Use
- b. EHR- Electronic Health Record
- c. CMS- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- d. ONC- Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
- e. EP- Eligible Professional (physician offices/group practices)
- f. EH- Eligible Hospital
- g. CAH- Critical Access Hospital
- h. SS – Syndromic Surveillance
- i. ELR – Electronic Laboratory Reporting

2. What stages of SS and ELR does DHEC accept?

The table below details SC DHEC’s readiness for the SS and ELR objectives as of June 2014.

Program/Objective	EPs	EHs/CAHs
Syndromic Surveillance**	SC does currently accept syndromic surveillance data from EPs.	Stage 1 Stage 2
Electronic Laboratory Reporting	N/A	Stage 1 Stage 2

3. What are the attestation requirements for each program?

Visit the following links for stage by provider type. You will be directed to the CMS tip sheet that details the attestation requirements.

PH Objective	EPs	EHs/CAHs
Stage 1	http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/downloads/EP-MU-toc.pdf	http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/downloads/Hosp_CAH_MU-toc.pdf
Stage 2	http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage2_MeaningfulUseSpecSheet_TableContents_EPs.pdf	http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/Stage2_MeaningfulUseSpecSheet_TableContents_EligibleHospitals_CAHs.pdf

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GENERAL ATTESTATION REQUIREMENTS:

All organizations seeking **MU attestation for stage 2** must attest YES to meeting one of the following criteria under the umbrella of ongoing submission:

1. **Ongoing submission** was already achieved for an EHR reporting period in a prior year and continues throughout the current EHR reporting period.
2. Registration with the public health agency or other body to whom the information is being submitted of intent to initiate ongoing submission was made by the deadline (**within 60 days** of the start of the EHR reporting period) and **ongoing submission was achieved**.
3. Registration of intent to initiate ongoing submission was made by the deadline and the EP or hospital is still engaged in **testing and validation** of ongoing electronic submission.
4. Registration of intent to initiate ongoing submission was made by the deadline and the EP or hospital is **awaiting invitation** to begin testing and validation

4. **Which validation tool(s) should I use for syndromic surveillance and lab reporting messages?**

We encourage you to use both tools since each has its own strengths. Our IT team will run messages through both tools as well as review the messages closely.

- a. The NIST Validation tool provides strong validation around the messages' structure.
 - i. NIST validation web service: http://healthcare.nist.gov/use_testing/tools.html
- b. The MQF Validation tool provides strong validation around the messages' vocabulary.
 - i. MQF validation web site: <https://phinmqf.cdc.gov/default.aspx>

5. **I need help debugging my messages. Can IT review my messages? What are some resources?**

Due to limited staffing within the IT team supporting MU, we are able to provide very limited, consultative resources. Please use the following resources for assistance.

- a. **NIST – HL7 GOOGLE GROUPS/FORUMS**
 - i. <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/hl7v2-reportable-lab-testing>
 - ii. <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/hl7v2-syndromic-testing>
 - iii. <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/hl7v2-immunization-testing>
- b. **CDC Message Quality Framework**
 - i. Send an email to phinmqfsupport@cdc.gov.
 - ii. Your email will be reviewed the same business day and a response will be sent to you on a resolution for your issue or you may be asked for additional information.

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6. From where do we obtain an NPI #?

Visit CMS's NPI Registry - <https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/NPPESRegistry/NPIRegistryHome.do>

7. Will DHEC be expecting to receive LOINC codes in the laboratory reporting data we send electronically?

Yes, we are expecting LOINC codes as well as SNOMED codes.

We cannot tell you which LOINC codes to send as they differ depending on the methodology, specimen source, reporting units, etc. of the tests performed by your Laboratory. In a process called "mapping", your Laboratory staff (or someone else knowledgeable to the procedures performed by the Lab) will have to select the appropriate LOINC code from <http://loinc.org/>. That website is free to use.

Just as a reminder, ONLY those tests which are "reportable conditions" as listed on the SC DHEC website need to have LOINC codes mapped. The quantity of mapping of course varies with the number of tests your laboratory performs that are "reportable tests".

You can get the LOINC and SNOMED codes you need here in several different formats:

- a. LOINC: <http://loinc.org/>
- b. SNOMED: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/Snomed/snomed_main.html

Another useful link is the CDC PHIN VADS: <https://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/SearchVocab.action>

8. What is SFTP compared to PHINMS?

They are both means by which to transport files electronically and securely.

Note: SFTP is acceptable for Stage 1 and PHINMS for Stage 2

- i. SFTP = Secure File Transfer Protocol
(http://www.fatcow.com/knowledgebase/read_article.blm?kbid=7519)
- ii. PHIN-MS = Public Health Information Network - Messaging System
(<https://sites.google.com/site/cdcphinms/about/project-definition>)
- iii. PHIN-MS is a CDC designed application that is installed and configured but requires more hands on configuration and additional security add-ons such as digital certificates.
- iv. http://www.cdc.gov/phin/library/resources/tools/phinms/Secure,%20Reliable%20Messaging%20Comparisons%20between%20PHINMS,%20SFTP,%20and%20SSH_v1.0_04-15-08.pdf

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9. How frequently should files be submitted?

DHEC would like reportable lab results and syndromic surveillance files to be sent as batch messages once a day.

Syndromic files need to generate daily and must contain data from the previous ten days (12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. of previous day).

File should be generated and delivered to SC DHEC via a secure transfer by 6:00 a.m. each day.