

September 30, 2013

Kansas Providers:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is committed to helping Kansas providers and hospitals achieve meaningful use as defined by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. The HITECH Act authorizes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to make incentive payments to eligible professionals and eligible hospitals demonstrating meaningful use of certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology. Meaningful use includes demonstrations of submission of electronic data for immunizations, laboratory results, and syndromic surveillance. As the appropriate recipient of such public health data for Kansas, KDHE has been receiving immunization data from a limited number of providers since 2007, started receiving reportable lab results in September, 2011, and has been participating in a syndromic surveillance registry since summer of 2012.

At the Federal and State levels the standards and infrastructure necessary to electronically transmit Stage 1 meaningful use data using secure methods are evolving. For this reason, KDHE has chosen to allow eligible professionals and eligible hospitals to claim exclusion for their Stage 1 public health meaningful use measure attestation for immunizations, laboratory results, or syndromic surveillance.

The strategy implemented by KDHE for all public health meaningful use criteria, has been to first develop connectivity with approved Kansas HIOs in an effort to minimize costs to providers and hospitals that are part of an approved HIO, thereby maximizing the number of providers able to access population health data in the shortest time possible. We believe this represents the most efficient use of state resources during this development.

KDHE strongly recommends continuation of Stage 1 meaningful use provider activities in preparation for Stages 2 and 3 of meaningful use as defined by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and the State of Kansas.

Sincerely,



Aaron Dunkel
Deputy Secretary
Kansas Department of Health and Environment