

Syndromic Surveillance Data Frequently Asked Questions

1. If our facility is currently sending syndromic data to NDHHS, does this meet the meaningful use criteria?

Probably not. Most emergency department transmissions established prior to the release of the MU requirements will not meet the data format specifications mandated in the MU final rule. The MU final rule specifies that all data must be formatted to meet HL7 2.5.1 specifications. If your data transmissions meet those specifications then you should meet the syndromic surveillance MU criteria. NDHHS wants to work with facilities that have been sending data to convert their transmission into the required format.

2. Where can I find specifications for the MU syndromic surveillance message?

Our Syndromic Surveillance Implementation guide can be found here:

- [Implementation Guide Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department and Urgent Care](#)
- [Inpatient Surveillance Implementation Guide](#)

3. Are all health care providers and hospitals asked to submit Syndromic Surveillance Data?

The MU objective includes all health care professionals and hospitals. In Nebraska, syndromic surveillance messages are requested from:

- Hospitals for all emergency room visits
- Inpatient facilities for all visits

4. Where data transmissions should be sent?

Messages are sent to the Syndromic Surveillance Event Detection of Nebraska (SSEDON) system. To begin this process, please let us know your interest by filling out the data exchange enrollment form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Meaningful_Use_Testing_Registration_Form

5. How do I send the messages?

Currently, SSEDON is able to accept data transmissions via a secure mechanism developed and freely distributed by CDC known as the Public Health Information Network Messaging System (PHINMS). For more information on PHINMS, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/phin/tools/PHINms/index.html>.