



Oklahoma State Department of Health  
Creating a State of Health

July 22, 2011

Oklahoma Providers:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is committed to helping Oklahoma providers and hospitals achieve meaningful use as defined by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinic 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. Stage 1 meaningful use includes demonstrations of submission of electronic data for immunizations, laboratory results, and syndromic surveillance. As the recipient of public health data for Oklahoma, the OSDH has been receiving electronic laboratory results data in a limited capacity from a small number of providers for some years. The OSDH has also been developing an immunization data repository in preparation for meaningful use and has successfully tested the process. The OSDH does not currently maintain a statewide syndromic surveillance data registry.

At the Federal and State levels, the standards and infrastructure necessary to electronically transmit Stage 1 meaningful use data using secure methods are evolving and as a result, the OSDH does not currently have sufficient capacity to receive the required electronic transmissions. For this reason, providers attesting to meaningful use in calendar year 2011 will be allowed to claim an exclusion for their 2011 Stage 1 public health meaningful use measure attestation for immunizations, laboratory results and syndromic surveillance.

The OSDH 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 Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Julie Cox-Kain, M.P.A.  
Chief Operating Officer  
Oklahoma State Department of Health

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