

Meaningful Use Public Health Tracking

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INTRODUCTION

Problem

Tracking the Meaningful Use Public Health Objective participation from providers is time consuming and resource intensive.

Project

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is enhancing an existing tool to reduce facilitate the process and reduce the burden on both providers and public health staff.

Project Goal




Facilitate the transition to electronic reporting in order to improve quality, completeness and timeliness of public health data(1,2) for follow up.

Project Objectives

- Automate several steps in the current process, including self-testing and validation.
- Expedite the onboarding process with provider access to update own information and track progress.
- Reduce administrative burden with MU documentation and process.
- Stakeholders' decision to enhance existing tool

METHODS

Current Process




- Multiple registrations
 Providers' multiple registrations becoming unmanageable.
- Manual testing and validation
 Uploading test files via sftp client is a burden to technically-challenged providers.
- Manual MU documentation
 Generating and sending emails/letters is time consuming for Public Health staff.

Planning

- Stakeholders' decision to enhance existing tool
- Recruited development staff
- Drafted framework* to elicit requirements
- Used Agile development methodology
- Created formal Functional/Technical Requirements document
- Tested case scenarios

RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

Improvements

- Single registration
 Providers sign in to register or update previous registration.
- Automated testing and validation
 Built-in validation tool allows direct file upload and automated testing.
- Automated MU documentation
 Entering relevant dates for testing and production trigger automated letters to providers.

Conclusions

- Providers' access allows them to track progress in the MU process.
- Providers' self-testing and validation can expedite the onboarding process.
- Automated documentation also reduces the administrative burden on PH staff.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Lessons Learned

- Communication, Communication, Communication! Informatics has an important role in facilitating communication.
- Clearly defined requirements and documentation is a must!
- Agile development methodology allows for some flexibility.
- Close collaboration contributes to success of project.

Next Steps

- Refine tool to include the following functionalities:
- Providers can upload NPI list and indicate exclusions.
 - Complete implementation of validation tool (move to production).
 - Update reports for ad-hoc reports.

Public Health Impact

Facilitating the onboarding process for electronic reporting will improve the quality, completeness and timeliness of reported PH data.

References: (1) Ward, M, et al. 2005. Electronic reporting improves timeliness and completeness of infectious disease notification, The Netherlands, 2003. Euro Surveill. 2005 Jan; 10(1):27-30. Abstract retrieved from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15701937?access_num=15701937&link_type=MED&dopt=Abstract (2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Progress in Improving State and Local Disease Surveillance - United States, 2000-2005. MMWR Weekly. Aug 26, 2005 54(33):822-825. Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5433a3.htm>

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*framework courtesy of New Mexico Department of Health

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