Cancer and Electronic Reporting – Meaningful Use Stage 2

The Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry (ASCR) was established in 1995 by the Alabama Department of Public Health in response to state law (Act 95-275) that made cancer a reportable condition. Currently, the ASCR allows hospitals, physician offices and stand-alone cancer treatment centers to report cancer information through secured health information systems in a standard cancer reporting format. This information is a valuable tool in monitoring trends in cancer incidence, identifying populations at high risk for cancer, facilitating studies related to cancer prevention, and planning cancer control initiatives.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) enacted the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act to accelerate the adoption of health information technology. The ARRA offers incentives to eligible providers and hospitals to adopt health information technology in order to electronically submit pertinent data to public health agencies respective to three mandatory objectives: 1) immunization reporting (mandatory for eligible providers), 2) reportable lab results submission, and 3) syndromic surveillance reporting. This program was termed "Meaningful Use" (MU), or named MU Stage 1.

In August 2012, the HHS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published Meaningful Use Stage 2 (MU2) rules. MU2 mandates all providers to implement electronic reporting through acceptable health information technology and use such reporting to support the MU Stage 1 policy priorities by the defined time period, regardless of what MU phase the provider is in during this time period. Additionally, MU2 increased objective requirements for both eligible providers and hospitals.

- Eligible Professionals (EPs) must complete 17 core objectives and 3 of 6 menu objectives to obtain incentive credits. New menu objectives have been added for EPs. These objectives are described as: **the reporting of cancer cases to the public health agencies**, syndromic surveillance reporting, and the reporting of cases to other specialized registries. ADPH accepts HL7 CDA format specifically required for MU2 cancer reporting only.
- Eligible Hospitals (EHs) must complete 16 core objectives and 3 of 6 menu objectives. Electronic cancer reporting to ASCR currently is not a menu option for EHs. However, hospitals are still required by state law to continue to submit reportable cancer incidences to the ASCR.

Getting Started with Meaningful Use Stage 2 – Cancer Reporting
- Software vendors and eligible professionals interested in exchanging cancer reporting data with ADPH may register at the [ADPH Security Portal](#) / Meaningful Use Web application.

For more information from ADPH, send an email to MeaningfulUse@adph.state.al.us.