

# North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS)

Bi-directional  
HL7 Messaging  
Update

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## Development of Bi-directional HL7 Messaging System

- The bi-directional HL7 messaging system has been a goal of the NDDoH for some time.
- A more urgent need for the development of the bi-directional system became necessary with the recent changes to North Dakota's childhood immunization program and the need for LPHUs to bill insurance companies for vaccine.

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## Development of Bi-directional HL7 Messaging System (Cont)

- Joel Freborg (BCBSND Information Systems Division) is leading the development of the bi-directional HL7 messaging system.
- The NDIIS system is being enhanced to accept HL7 real-time messages from health care providers.

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## Development of Bi-directional HL7 Messaging System (Cont)

- Providers who already store and process information data in their own electronic information systems will be able to submit client and immunization data to NDIIS via HL7 messaging.
- This eliminates the need for providers to enter data into both NDIIS and the provider's system.

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## Status of Project

- Meritcare and First District Health Unit are test sites for the bi-directional system.
- HL7 transfer specifications (to eliminate duplicate entry) were published and sent to Meritcare, First District Health Unit, Altru, Medcenter One and Trinity Health.

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### Status of Project (Cont)

- A second HL7 specification (a separate message to transfer claims information from the provider's electronic claim information system to NDIIS) was sent to First District Health Unit.

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### Status of Project (Cont)

- KIPHS, Inc., First District Health Unit's electronic information system contractor recently began system configuration for First District Health Unit.
- At this time, Meritcare has not responded to BCBSND after receiving the HL7 transfer specifications.

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### Status of Project (Cont)

- BCBSND still developing the test environment for testing with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Health Tracks, Indian Health Services and the Minnesota Department of Health are also interested in the bi-directional system.

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### Provider Responsibilities

- Providers must be able to transmit messages to and receive messages from NDIIS.
  - Providers must have a client interface capable of transmitting an HL7 message file that will securely transmit public health information over the Internet.

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### Provider Responsibilities (Cont)

- Providers must have a receiver capable of receiving messages from the NDIIS sender.
- The NDIIS BCBSND technical staff will work with providers to test message transport and formatting using the NDIIS test environment.

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### Goals/Objectives

- BCBSND plans to have the bi-directional system available for the test sites to begin testing by June 10.
- KIPHS Inc. (First District Health Unit) plans to begin testing with BCBSND between mid and late June.

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## Goals/Objectives (Cont)

- With that timeline, First District Health Unit is estimating to begin production no later than mid to late July.
- Testing will begin with other providers after the two test sites are in production.

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## Goals/Objectives (Cont)

- The general usage statement for HL7 supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.
  - Examples of other uses for the HL7 include:
    - Electronic medical records

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## Goals/Objectives (Cont)

- Lab messaging
- Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System
- Vaccine forecasting

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## Costs

- The initial start-up cost for providers is estimated between \$20,000 and \$30,000.
  - Dependent upon the needs of each provider...costs may include software, hardware, configuration and testing.

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## Costs (Cont)

- Other anticipated costs after initial start-up may include:
  - Maintenance costs
  - Security certificates

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## Conclusion

- That concludes my update on the bi-directional HL7 messaging system.
- Thank you for your interest in the project.

Any Questions?

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