**Questions and Answers:**

**6/16/16 NMI eSHARE Webinar**

**Jurisdictions’ Experiences in Preparing for NMI HL7 Case Notification Implementation**

(Questions for PHIN VADS)

**Q: Will updates to Vocabulary Access and Distribution System (VADS) views be provided on future NMI eSHARE calls so that, in case we miss a view update, we might also be notified that way?**

**A:** CDC will not announce changes to the message mapping guide (MMG) views through eSHARE calls. When we announce a pilot test-ready draft MMG (Stage II), we will post a link to the VADS view on the HL7 MMGs and Artifacts web site (<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/case-notification/message-mapping-guides.html>). We suggest that implementers subscribe to the view when they begin to implement a guide to be kept abreast of any changes.

Please see below for the links to the current production and pilot test-ready draft MMG views:

* Arboviral Case Notification: <http://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=Arboviral%20Case%20Notification>
* Generic Case Notification Version 2: <https://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=Generic%20Case%20Notification%20MMG%20-%20Version%202>
* Hepatitis Case Notification: <https://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=Hepatitis%20Case%20Notification>
* Congenital Syphilis Case Notification: <https://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=Congenital%20Syphilis%20Case%20Notification>
* STD Case Notification: <https://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=STD%20Case%20Notification>
* Mumps Case Notification: <https://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=Mumps%20Case%20Notification>
* Pertussis Case Notification: <https://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=Pertussis%20Case%20Notification>.

**Q: What web browsers does VADS currently support?**

**A:** VADS currently supports the Internet Explorer web browser. Users may not be able to subscribe to VADS views if they use other browsers. VADS has identified compatibility with other browsers as a needed enhancement. We apologize for any inconvenience the current limitation may cause you.

(Questions for Tennessee and Louisiana)

**Q: Are Tennessee and Louisiana generating HL7 messages directly from the NEDSS Base System (NBS) or are you exporting a file that is mapped in Rhapsody? Is Rhapsody only used as a transport mechanism?**

**A:** NBS generates an XML file (called the *NBS intermediate message*) that conforms to the CDC MMG standards. This XML message is generated by using metadata that describe each element that should be in the message, as well as where each element belongs in the HL7 version of the message. This intermediate message is translated from XML to the CDC-defined, HL7-like message in Rhapsody by using standard translation language; data mapping (translation) does not occur in the route; it mostly converts <> to |^| (i.e., XML to HL7). Some NBS jurisdictions also do some validation and filtering in Rhapsody. PHIN Messaging System (PHIN MS) is used for message transport from NBS to CDC.

**Q: Could you describe the difference between the NBS Master Message and the case notification message?**

**A:** The NBS Master Message is the format in which NBS states currently send most case notifications to NNDSS. It is used in place of the National Electronic Telecommunications System for Surveillance (NETSS) format. The NBS Master Message was implemented when NBS was first built in 2003 and contains more data elements than what is available in the NETSS format. It is based on the HL7 RIM (v3) and follows HL7 standard practices (e.g., providing triplets for all question-and-answer concepts [code, value, code system]) so that all data provided are fully described and as standardized as possible. NBS states will transition from the NBS Master Message to the new HL7 messages, just as non-NBS states will transition from the NETSS message to the new HL7 messages.

Because the NBS Master Message is XML-based, it allows the states to generate messages in in the NBS Master Message format, in the old V1 HL7 format, and in the new V2 HL7 format.

(Questions for Minnesota)

**Q: When we send an update on a case, we need to include the date the case was first sent to CDC. How do you incorporate this information into an update on the case? There is no user interface for the reporting database so how do users see the message history information?**

**A:** This process is still under development. Currently, the case message history table in the data warehouse does record the status of interactions with CDC such as date sent. However, this process does not have a feedback loop to Maven to record the date sent; we plan to add that at a later stage. In the meanwhile, Minnesota Electronic Disease Surveillance System Administrators and Epidemiologists will have access to the case message history table in the data warehouse to view the status of cases reported to CDC. This view will be a simple look into the database, such as an Open Database Connectivity connection using Access, without a formal application to access the data.

**Q: Where does Minnesota host the Minnesota-based components—at a central data center for your state or at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)? How much time do you need from the database architect in support of the data warehouse?**

**A:** Minnesota is currently in the process of moving data to a centralized data center where the location of the data is meant to be transparent to the users. The database administrators themselves are employed by the state’s central IT organization but are housed at MDH.

Most of the work done by the database administrators has been in system setup and testing. Roughly 50 hours were logged in a particular work tracking ticket although that was likely not all of the time spent. Once the system has gone live, we do not anticipate many additional hours. In the future when MMGs are added or changed, we anticipate that most of the work needed will be with the Rhapsody route and not the data warehouse.