



AREAS OF NMI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CDC provides technical assistance through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) Modernization Initiative (NMI) State Implementation and Technical Assistance Team. The team includes experts from CDC and our partners at the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

The team provides technical assistance to public health agencies (PHAs) to help them adopt the NNDSS HL7 message mapping guides (MMGs) and use them to send case notification messages to the Message Validation, Processing, and Provisioning System (MVPS).

The team provides services across all areas of data exchange implementation as outlined below in the "Areas of NMI Technical Assistance" job aid.

AREAS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The technical assistance teams work with PHA leadership, IT personnel, and epidemiology subject matter experts to assist in any of the following areas:

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS ANALYSIS

- Help understand the short- and long-term goals, benefits, and challenges of HL7 case notification messaging.
- Help determine your path to completing this project, identify potential risk and needed resources, and develop a custom project plan.
- Transfer knowledge to enhance in-house capability on the use of integration engines and infrastructure management for case notifications to CDC based on MMGs.
- Provide hands-on assistance and training to build capacity to implement case notification messages and achieve production status.

TERMINOLOGY EXPERTISE, DATA STANDARDS EXPERTISE, AND WORKFLOW ANALYSIS

- Harmonize surveillance system terminology and incorporate nationally recognized electronic data standards into your workflow.
- Help map local vocabulary and disease surveillance system (DSS) data elements to data elements within the MMG and to PHIN Vocabulary Access and Distribution System value sets.
- Identify and explore solutions to gaps between available DSS data elements and MMG data elements.
- Help understand how, when, and why to use standard codes (e.g., LOINC, SNOMED, PHIN value sets).





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TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE AND SYSTEM INTEGRATION EXPERTISE

- Extract data from surveillance information systems.
- Map codes in the data extract to vocabulary specified in the MMGs.
- Create HL7 messages based on the MMGs by using an integration engine (e.g., Rhapsody) or other tools.
- Facilitate secure transport of HL7 messages.
- Address security concerns.
- Provide detailed analysis of proposed solution(s).
- Use previous experience and reusable components from successful solutions in other organizations so that every implementation does not reinvent the wheel.
- Provide hands-on assistance with data exchange mechanisms and other technical architecture options.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: What models of technical assistance are available?

ANSWER: NMI technical assistance is provided as three different models: 1) onsite, 2) virtual, and 3) hybrid, a combination of onsite and virtual technical assistance.

See “Models of NMI Technical Assistance Available” at www.cdc.gov/nmi/ta-trc/technical-assistance/models.html for more information.

QUESTION: Can all PHAs use NMI technical assistance?

ANSWER: Yes, all PHAs can use technical assistance. In addition, all PHAs can use the templates, standardized information, checklists, and other tools that are available on the NMI Technical Assistance and Training Resource Center at www.cdc.gov/nmi/ta-trc/resources.html.

QUESTION: Is there a cost to the jurisdictions for using NMI technical assistance?

ANSWER: No, there is no cost to PHAs for technical assistance.

QUESTIONS ABOUT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR ONBOARDING?

- Send an email to the CDC Electronic Data Exchange inbox at edx@cdc.gov.
- Include your question or a brief description of assistance needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the NMI Technical Assistance and Training Resource Center

www.cdc.gov/nmi/ta-trc