

# 1 OVERVIEW

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## 1.1 Purpose

This document describes the processes, tools, and activities for onboarding new data feeds and sites into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Syndromic Surveillance Program's (NSSP) BioSense Platform.

**Onboarding** is the process of working with a facility, department of health, vendor for electronic health records, or health information exchange to transmit syndromic surveillance data from internal medical records systems to the NSSP BioSense Platform, assess adherence to the Public Health Information Network (PHIN) syndromic surveillance messaging guidance, and begin a live data feed to the BioSense Platform.

## 1.2 Audience

The audience for this document includes administrators, managers, and technical representatives for sites, jurisdictions, health information exchanges, and individual hospitals or medical facilities participating in syndromic surveillance.

## 1.3 Organization

This document is organized as follows:

- **Overview** – documents overview and target audience
- **Planning** – provides information about prerequisites, planning, and expectations
- **Onboarding Methodology** – describes the onboarding phases and process
- **Data Integration** – identifies the core technical specifications and configuration details for integrating a new feed into the BioSense Platform
- **Data Security** – summarizes information security
- **Production Support** – describes how to get support once feeds are in production
- **Frequently Asked Questions** – answers additional questions
- **Appendixes** – provides material to assist with onboarding

## 1.4 BioSense Platform Overview

The National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) is CDC’s initiative for capturing, sharing, and analyzing syndromic surveillance data. NSSP is a collaboration among local, state, and national public health programs to facilitate the timely exchange and use of targeted syndromic surveillance data. These data help public health officials detect, monitor, and respond quickly to local public health threats and events of public health importance.

NSSP groups facilities under a single *administrative authority* called a **site**. Sites are the agencies (usually local or state health departments) that have the relationship with facilities that provide data. A site may oversee any number of facilities, with all facilities sharing the same site administrator. Examples of **facilities** include hospital emergency departments, outpatient clinics, and ambulatory care centers.

NSSP’s BioSense Platform is the core component of this integrated, nationwide system for public health syndromic surveillance. NSSP provides resources and technical assistance to help sites with onboarding syndromic surveillance feeds for health information exchanges (HIEs), health departments, hospital systems, and individual hospital and healthcare facilities.

## 1.5 Terminology

Acronym	Definition
AC	Ambulatory Care
ADM	Analytic Data Management; team who provide analytic expertise and support for NSSP.
ADT	HL7-based healthcare facility message type specific to an Admit, Discharge, and Transfer activity
ASTHO	Association for State and Territorial Health Officials
ATO	Authorization to Operate
BioSense Platform	Cloud-based computing environment; core component of the National Syndromic Surveillance Program
BOPA	BioSense Platform Onboarding Process Acknowledgment
C&A	Certification and Accreditation
CA	Certifying Authority
CWE	Coded With Exception
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
DAA	Designated Approving Authority
DOH	Department of Health for a site’s jurisdiction (i.e., state, county or other)
DUA	Data Use Agreement
ED	Emergency Department
EHR	Electronic Health Record
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
FISMA	Federal Information Security Management Act

HIE	Health Information Exchange
HIS	Health Information System
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ISDS	International Society for Disease Surveillance
MFT	Master Facility Table
MU	Meaningful Use
NIST	National Institute of Science and Technology
NPI	National Provider Identifier
NSSP	National Syndromic Surveillance Program
OCISCO	Office of the Chief Information Security Office
OIDS	Globally unique ISO (International Organization for Standardization) identifier
PHDSC	Public Health Data Standards Consortium
PHIN	Public Health Information Network
PHINMS	Message transport system used in public health
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
PID	Patient ID
Site	The NSSP model groups facilities (i.e., hospital emergency department, outpatient clinic) that provide data under a single data administrative authority, called a site administrator. These facilities and single-site administrator constitute a site.
SFTP	Secure File Transfer Protocol
SSH	Secure Shell; a protocol to allow remote login and enable network services to operate securely
UC	Urgent Care
VADS	Vocabulary Access and Distribution System