

Position:

The AIRA Standards and Interoperability Steering Committee (SISC) recommends that:

- 1) The HL7 2.3.1 messaging standard should no longer be used to develop new immunization messaging interfaces between Immunization Information Systems (IIS) and Electronic Health Records (EHRs) or other authorized submitters (e.g. pharmacies); whenever possible, the 2.5.1 release 1.5 messaging standard should be used;
- 2) All trading partners should make efforts to transition existing 2.3.1 interfaces to a more recent messaging standard;
- 3) By June 30, 2018, trading partners should plan to end support for HL7 2.3.1 interfaces, transitioning any final remaining interfaces to a more current standard.

Background and Context:

The original guide on Immunization Data Transactions using the HL7 2.3 Standard Protocol was first published in May, 1997, although broader adoption was seen with the 2.1 version of the Implementation Guide for Immunization Data Transactions published in September, 2002. The most recent published and supported 2.3.1 guide is the 2.2 version, dated June 2006. The current guide promoted by AIRA and CDC is the HL7 2.5.1 version 1.5 Implementation Guide, published October 2014 (along with an addendum published July 2015). This version is also cited by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) in Meaningful Use rules as well as by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) in 2015 Certified Electronic Health Record Technology rules.

The AIRA SISC also recently voted to move forward with balloting the HL7 Immunization Implementation Guide through the HL7 Organization, and is drafting a version 2.8.2 guide as a step in this process.

In an effort to best utilize resources throughout the health information exchange ecosystem, the SISC recognizes that it is in the community's best interest to limit ongoing support of outdated standards. It is the hope of SISC that a unified position statement will support a stronger commitment among IIS and their partners/stakeholders to efficiently sunset all 2.3.1 interfaces by the date cited above.

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