



AIRA
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

IIS Measurement and Improvement – Vendor Product Validation

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated April 2020

IIS Vendor Product Validation Overview

1. What is IIS vendor Product Validation?

Product Validation through Measurement and Improvement (M&I) provides IIS vendors with an objective, independent testing process; the available data will enable individual IIS vendors to share their progress toward meeting standards with the broader community. The results can be shared with current and potential IIS customers.

2. What are the anticipated benefits of participating in M&I Product Validation process?

M&I provides IIS vendors with an objective, independent testing process. Both individual IIS and IIS vendors have expressed a desire to use results from independent testing in the contracting and procurement processes. Recently within the IIS community, more Response for Information (RFI) and Response for Procurement (RFP) contracting language is requesting alignment with IIS Functional Standards. All M&I content areas are driven by the IIS Functional Standards and provide results that can be shared to show alignment with standards. Participation in this process will allow individual IIS and IIS vendors to support each other in alignment with national standards as testing results may differ between the same IIS software depending on application configuration settings, hosting and production environmental factors. Shared independent testing results to prioritize enhancements and collaborative work between individual IIS and IIS vendors, will in turn build confidence in IIS across other communities and will help prioritize essential improvements and community-wide adoption of standards across both IIS and Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems. Over time, adoption of standards will reduce costs and resources needed for onboarding and maintaining interfaces both now and in the future.

3. What about IIS vendors who are not yet ready or do not want to participate in the Validation process?

Participation remains voluntary. The AART application will continue to be used as the platform for declaring participation in the stages and content areas of measurement, as well as for declaring sharing settings to allow for transparency. To lower the burden on participants, IIS vendor products will be rolled forward to participate and share in new content areas and stages of measurement when applicable. AART Admin users can change participation and sharing settings at any time, and “no” responses will be rolled forward as well.

4. What does an IIS vendor product receive if it meets the measures?

AART will display basic and complete level of Validation for IIS vendor projects. AIRA will provide IIS vendor products who meet the status of “Validated” at the complete level with a formal statement they can include in their communication, marketing materials, and procurement responses, if desired. AIRA will also indicate that this is a base product Validation and individual IIS configurations, or other production environmental factors will impact testing results once implemented in an individual IIS environment. AIRA will also do its best to indicate the version of the product that is Validated; however, this is only as accurate as the information we are able to receive at the time.

5. How long is each Validated status good for?

Product Validation for specific content areas may be rolled out at any point in a calendar year; in subsequent years, Validation status will be renewed for each calendar year, based on the measurement in quarter 1 of each year. Measures will not change from year to year; if measures are added, they will be added to Assessment prior to Validation. The one area of exception may be related to CDS; because the Advisory Council for Immunization Practices (ACIP) may change recommendations mid-year, and because the IIS Functional Standards and Operational Guidance Statements expect IIS forecasting engines to adopt new rules “in a timely fashion”, CDS Validation may change on an independent schedule.

Operational Questions

6. Who will oversee the Measurement and Improvement (M&I) process?

All measures and tests throughout M&I have been and will continue to be developed by MACAW, vetted for comment with the full IIS community via a Town Hall meeting webinar format, and reviewed and approved by the AIRA Board of Directors prior to implementation.

7. Who will conduct the testing for IIS vendors?

AIRA staff will conduct all testing. If, at some future point, testing needs exceed AIRA’s capacity, alternatives will be explored with MACAW and the AIRA Board, in conjunction with community input.

8. How will the testing be conducted for IIS vendors?

AIRA technical staff are responsible for implementing and conducting all testing efforts within the M&I Initiative. Current test methodology involves connecting with

IIS vendor base products through a Web services interface, submitting test messages, and receiving back test results. Future content areas of measurement may involve new methods that are currently being evaluated by AIRA staff and MACAW. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is partnering with AIRA in the testing process to develop conformance test tools in support of this initiative. Due to IIS vendor products being base products that are not “production like,” some content areas will not be applicable, and testing will not occur (e.g. Data at Rest, IIS Policy). Although AIRA does not anticipate any issues releasing quarterly reports for IIS vendor products, AIRA will continue to prioritize IIS programs and the work to ensure they are able to be tested when releasing quarterly reports.

9. What is the timeline for implementing IIS Validation?

IIS vendor Product Validation will begin rolling out in the summer of 2020.

10. What measures will be included in Validation?

Measures and tests are the same for individual IIS and IIS vendor products. Measures for each content area of Validation will be drawn from published IIS Assessment measures and tests, where results are already available to individual IIS and IIS vendors via the AART application. No new measures or tests will be introduced in the Validation stage that are not already measured and visible in the Assessment stage.

11. What are the Validation statuses?

The statuses for Validation are defined below for IIS vendor products. Although the definitions are the same for individual IIS, the graphics are slightly different to distinguish IIS vendor products from individual IIS within AART:

Validated: The IIS vendor product has achieved full alignment with community-selected measures. This designation is automatically achieved when an IIS vendor product meets all the designated measures and tests in a specific content area (e.g., Transport, Submission, Query, etc.).

Validated with Minor Differences: The IIS vendor product has achieved full alignment with community-selected measures except for differences that 1) are allowed by the standard (e.g., constraints), or 2) are meeting requirements of local policy/law that do not conflict with standard requirements.

Major Differences: The IIS vendor product cannot support the measures because of additional requirements that conflict with the national standard; significant changes are needed in one or more measures to align with standards.



12. Why are there levels of Validation (i.e., Basic, Complete)?

Some content areas may be broken down into “Basic and/or Complete” measures. This graduated approach allows for more nuanced results and makes it easier to show both success and improvement. The “Basic” level includes essential measures an IIS and IIS vendor product would be expected to pass to minimally meet a specific functional area, while the “Complete” level includes more comprehensive sets of measures for a given content area. Basic and Complete Validation will be displayed in AART for IIS vendor products and AIRA will send out recognition certificates for IIS vendor products that achieve Complete Validation.

13. How will IIS vendor product Validation results be shared?

If an IIS vendor product participation and sharing settings are set to “yes” for participation in a content area for Validation, results will be shared with all AART users via the “My Peers” page in AART. AIRA will not publish aggregate reports for IIS vendor product Validation as is currently done now for individual IIS Validation results. IIS vendor product Validation results may be shared with other stakeholders as requested.

Technical Assistance

14. How does an IIS vendor product get connected?

Contact AIRA staff at aart@immregistries.org. Technical assistance is available to connect IIS vendor products test systems for testing.

15. Is there technical assistance available to help IIS vendors prioritize and plan enhancements?

Yes, AIRA technical and programmatic staff are available to meet with IIS vendor teams to strategize on how best to prioritize enhancements. AIRA also offers developer access for IIS vendors who would like to run their own tests against system code changes. For more information about developer access contact Nathan at aart@immregistries.org.