



# AIRA

AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION  
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

## **IIS Measurement and Improvement – IIS Technology Partner Product Testing and Validation**

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

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## IIS Technology Partner Product Testing and Validation Overview

1. How do you define IIS program and IIS technology partner?

AIRA defines an IIS program as the team within a jurisdiction that oversees an implemented IIS, and the formalized efforts related to maintaining and supporting that system.

AIRA defines an IIS technology partner as the vendor that builds and distributes a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) or modular IIS system product.

2. What types of technology partner products are eligible to participate in Product Testing and Validation?

Technology partner products eligible to participate in Product Testing and Validation include base, off the shelf products that were created to serve IIS programs as their full system as well as modular products created to enhance IIS programs' functionality (forecaster, etc.)

3. What is technology partner Product Testing and Validation?

Product Testing and Validation through Measurement and Improvement (M&I) provides IIS technology partners with an objective, independent testing process; the available data will enable individual IIS technology partners to recognize their progress toward meeting standards with the broader community. When ready, technology partners can expand their participation by updating their settings in the Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART) to be included in Validation. Measurement results can also be shared with current and potential customers.

IIS technology partner Product Testing and Validation tests the base or modular product. When implemented in an IIS program environment, IIS program configurations and other production environmental factors may lead to different test results than seen in base product testing.

4. What is the recognition level available for technology partners products?

The Measurement and Improvement (M&I) validation stages for IIS programs includes Basic Level and Complete Level validation status. Basic level validation reflects that an IIS program is meeting essential measures for the content area. Complete level validation status reflects that an IIS program or IIS technology partner product meets all measures for the content area. IIS technology partner

products are only eligible to receive validation status at the complete level.

5. What are the anticipated benefits of participating in Product Testing and Validation process?

M&I provides IIS technology partners with an objective, independent testing process. Both IIS programs and IIS technology partners 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 IIS programs and IIS technology partners to support each other in alignment with national standards.

Validation fosters sharing independent test results, leading to prioritization and collaboration between IIS program and IIS technology partners. In time, this process builds confidence in IIS data and a community-wide adoption of standards across both IIS programs 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.

6. What about IIS technology partners who are not yet ready or do not want to participate in the Testing and 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. When an IIS technology partner participates in testing/discovery and assessment, they are responsible for controlling the [sharing settings](#) within AART. Sharing settings determine what information is visible to other users on the platform. Technology partner AART Admin users can change measurement and sharing settings at any time. Validation is the summary stage that formally and publicly recognizes IIS technology partner products that have achieved alignment with community-selected measures and tests. IIS technology partners that participate in Validation are open to sharing their results publicly.

7. What does an IIS technology partner product receive if it meets the complete validation measures?

AART will only display complete level of Validation for IIS technology partner products. AIRA will provide IIS technology partner products who meet the status of "Validated" at the complete level with a formal certificate they can include in their

communication, marketing materials, and procurement responses.

8. How long is each Product Validation status good for?

If a technology partner participates in Validation, the 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, beginning in quarter 1. Measures will not change from year to year without community agreement; if measures are added, they will be added to the Assessment stage prior to Validation.

9. 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.

10. Who will conduct the testing for IIS technology partner products?

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

11. How will the testing be conducted for IIS technology partner base products?

AIRA technical staff are responsible for implementing and conducting all testing efforts within the M&I Initiative. Current test methodology involves connecting with IIS technology partner 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 technology partner 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 technology partner base products, AIRA will continue to prioritize IIS programs and the work to ensure they are able to be tested when releasing quarterly reports.

12. When did AIRA begin implementing IIS Product Testing and Validation?

IIS technology partner Product Testing and Validation began rolling out in the summer of 2020.

13. What measures will be included in Product Testing and Validation?

Measures and tests are the same for IIS program and IIS technology partner products. Measures for each content area and all stages of measurement will be drawn from currently published and defined measures and tests, where results are already available to IIS programs and IIS technology partners 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.

## Technical Assistance

14. How does an IIS technology partner product get connected?

IIS technology partners can submit a TA request using the form found [here](#). Technical assistance is available to help systems connect to AART.

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

Yes, AIRA technical and programmatic staff are available to meet with IIS technology partner teams to strategize on how best to prioritize enhancements. For more information about technical assistance, submit a TA request using the form found [here](#).