



Topic: Electronic Signature

Request Date: January 26, 2022

Information Requested:

Puerto Rico captures the electronic signature of parents/patients for each administered vaccine as consent of the administration in the IIS in cases where information is manually entered. Now that we've begun the onboarding projects with electronic health record vendors, we've found that most electronic medical records (EMRs) don't capture a signature. Given this, we've agreed that:

- If the EMR collects a signature, the provider does not have to collect it in IIS
- If the EMR does not collect a signature, the provider must enter it in IIS and collect the signature for each exported vaccine

But now, the second point above has doubled the job for clinics. For this reason, we are interested in finding out from other IIS:

- Does your IIS capture an electronic signature for each administered vaccine?
- What is the workflow for managing the parent/patient signature for clinics that export their data from their EMR to the IIS?

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Results:

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HI:

Hawaii IIS does not collect electronic signature(s) of parents.



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INFORMATION REQUEST

MA:

Massachusetts has a legislative mandate that all immunizations are reported to the MIIS. So we don't require any opt in from patients. That being said, we do allow patients to limit who can see the data once reported to the MIIS and that requires the patient to complete and sign a paper objection form. This is then faxed or mailed to us. We currently scan the forms and save them to a drive and then change their data sharing status in the MIIS, but we are working on implementing an upload function within the MIIS that we can upload the documents to and allow us to easily search for them if they are ever needed.

NH:

While New Hampshire does not require any patient to get a signature from VR or store at the EMR level, I recommend that you use the NTE segment in the HL7 message to get an electronic signature. At the earlier period of COVID-19 response, when we were using a flat file to get the data into NHIS, we were using the same field (similar note section in our flat file specification) to document the vaccinator name and Dose number. Another idea is to create a custom segment to get those signatures.