Use Case Description: Use of CRISP Services for Disease Investigation

Version 1.0

Updated 2/9/16

Overview

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and local Health Officers[1] are required by law to monitor, investigate, treat, mitigate, and otherwise act to prevent the introduction or spread of infectious or contagious diseases or other diseases or conditions that endanger public health in this State, pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General Article, Title 18 and COMAR 10.06.01.

The Secretary, Health Officers, and public health investigators working on their behalf have a right to access clinical data for the purposes of case monitoring investigation, treatment, and mitigation under the aforementioned statutes and regulations governing disease reporting and investigation, including but not limited to, Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. Title 18, Subtitles 1 and 2, and COMAR 10.06.01.06 B(4). Public health response and implementation of control measures related to an outbreak or cluster of reportable diseases is time-sensitive and requires access to accurate and timely clinical data access. Allowing public health investigators access to CRISP services provides an avenue for a more efficient and thorough investigation of reportable diseases that endanger public health that could lead to improved documentation, collection processes, and response time.

Permitted Purpose Category

For a Public Purpose, as mandated by Applicable Law and consistent with the mission of the HIE to advance the health and wellness of patients in the CRISP service area (Permitted Purpose #2).

Technical Design

Public health investigators will utilize the Query Portal to support disease investigations. For certain communicable diseases that require following a patient, the public health investigator will submit a panel list and subscribe to individuals through the Encounter Notification Service.

Use Case Description

Physicians, clinical laboratories, and institutions are mandated to report infectious disease outbreaks and infections determined reportable by the Secretary, including infections on a list of state-defined reportable diseases and conditions. Cases are currently reported either electronically directly to the State via electronic lab reporting or via other means (including by telephone or fax) to the State or local health departments. Once a case or outbreak is reported, public health investigators gather information to confirm the case, identify potential contacts, and mitigate spread. During follow-up investigation, health department staff

---

[1] References to the 'Secretary of DHMH and Health Officers' include Health Officers, and their designees, at state and local health departments

often gather condition-specific information on a variety of case report forms[2], which generally involves collecting additional information. This additional information is currently obtained through calls to physicians and other healthcare providers, hospital infection preventionists, laboratorians, and sometimes directly from patients. This use case will not add any additional reporting burden to providers. The use of CRISP Services for disease investigation would, if anything, alleviate some of the administrative challenges the providers face in providing requested information to public health investigators.

DHMH Responsibilities

DHMH public health investigators will maintain any information obtained via CRISP Services confidential in accordance with Maryland statutes and regulations and CRISP policies. DHMH may only use the CRISP Services for disease investigation and case reporting purposes as defined in this use case.

Opt Out Applicability

Individuals who have chosen to Opt-out of CRISP services will not be accessible via the CRISP services by DHMH and public health officers.

Approval

This Use Case Policy has been approved by the Clinical Advisory Board.

_____   2/15/16
_____
Chairperson   Dated

---

[2] Disease/Condition-Specific forms: http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/disease-conditions-case-report-forms.aspx