Health Care Surveys Reporting

Committee Approval Date:
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Publishing Lead:
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Contributing or Reviewing Work Groups:
Public Health and FHIR-I

FHIR Development Project Insight ID:
Approved - 1611

Scope of coverage:
This guide provides the profiles and necessary extensions required to transmit health care survey information to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The guide is designed to work hand in hand with the MedMorph Reference Architecture FHIR IG, using the technical infrastructure and technical approaches of that IG to obtain data from an EHR or data repository and transmit the health care survey information.

The scope of this IG is defined by NCHS’s Congressional mandate as well as CMS Promoting Interoperability Program requirements/ related regulations of information to be reported to NCHS.

It is distinct from other IGs in the core space as it is the only FHIR IG that addresses NCHS’s Division of Health Care Statistics, National Health Care Surveys requirements. There is a related CDA IG (HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: National Health Care Surveys (NHCS).

The IG is targeted at clinical systems (e.g., EHRs) to provide a method for adherence to NCHS requirements and balloting the IG through the HL7 process has been carefully considered for the following benefits.

- Healthcare Surveys have been part of federal regulations (i.e., Meaningful Use, Promoting Interoperability), having a balloted Healthcare Survey IG for FHIR will help in the adoption by EHR vendors and be part of future regulations, including being cited in Federal regulations, incentives, and/or as part of ONC's Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP).
- NCHS receives the initial data from healthcare organizations, however the data gets used by other programs in CDC, health services researchers and others. So standardized content that can be exchanged between the various organizations is necessary for interoperability between the various organizations.
- In addition, NCHS wants to achieve alignment with HL7 terminology and profiles through the balloting process. Without balloting, there may be no effort to align and miss out on the HL7 expertise obtained through the balloting process.

The Content IG will only create new profiles and extensions if required. The goal is to reuse US Core profiles and US Public Health profiles where available and only create new ones if needed. US Core and US PH profiles may be further profiled for the purpose of this content IG.
Content location:
https://github.com/HL7/

Proposed IG Title:
Health Care Surveys Reporting

Proposed IG realm and code:
us/health-care-surveys-reporting

FHIR Core version(s):
FHIR R4.0.1

Maintenance Plan:
CDC intends to provide ongoing support of this implementation guide with FHIR community inputs when appropriate.

Short Description:
This guide focuses on the National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) and National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) data that will be extracted from EHRs and/or clinical data repositories via FHIR and APIs and sent to a system hosted at the federal level.

Long Description:
The Health Care Surveys Reporting IG leverages the MedMorph RA IG to identify and collect hospital (emergency department and inpatient care) and ambulatory care practice data and electronically report them to a system hosted at the federal level.

Electronic reporting will increase the response rate of sampled hospitals and ambulatory health care providers to the National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) and the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). This will also increase the volume, quality, completeness, and timeliness of the data submitted to the NHCS and NAMCS.

Electronic reporting via automated means (without provider involvement) will reduce the burden associated with survey participation and reduce costs associated with recruiting hospital and ambulatory health care providers.

The Health Care Surveys Reporting IG aligns with existing standards (HL7 FHIR, CDA) including HL7 implementation guides for eICR, and regulations (e.g., ONC 2015 Edition, 2015 Edition Cures Update, United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA)) while improving the timeliness and completeness of data received by public health and research.

For each API used to access and exchange data, the IG outlines the API mechanisms, inputs, and outputs.

The IG utilizes the MedMorph RA mechanisms for provisioning workflows and automated submission of the reports to NCHS.

The Health Care Surveys Reporting IG accommodates authorities and policies needed for NCHS reporting as per applicable regulations.

The IG specifies the payload for data exchange as outlined in the MedMorph Reference Architecture IG.

Involved parties:
In addition to multiple programs at the CDC, contributors to the IG development included a Technical Expert Panel convened by CDC comprised of multiple stakeholder groups such as federal partners, health IT developers, clinicians/health care organizations, medical societies, public health organizations, evaluation experts, policy experts, and members of the research community.

Expected implementations:
Public Health Agencies, CDC/NCHS
Technology Vendors: Epic, Allscripts, Cerner, athenahealth, eClinicalWorks and other EHR products

Backend Services App (BSA): Drajer

Trusted Third Party: eHealth Exchange

Content sources:
- CDC
- MedMorph Technical Expert Panel and Workgroups
- HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: National Health Care Surveys (NHCS), R1 STU Release 3 - US Realm
- MedMorph RA FHIR IG
- HL7 stakeholders
- US Core FHIR IG
- eCR FHIR IG
- USCDI

Example Scenarios:
The following are example scenarios enabled by the implementation guide:
- Health Care Survey administration and reporting from an ambulatory setting to NCHS.
- Health Care survey administration and reporting from an inpatient or emergency department or hospital based outpatient setting to NCHS.

IG Relationships:
Depends on:
- US Core FHIR IG
- MedMorph RA FHIR IG

References:
- eCR FHIR IG
- HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: National Health Care Surveys (NHCS), R1 STU Release 3 - US Realm

Timelines:
- STU Ballot in September 2021.

FMG Notes