

# Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) Guide



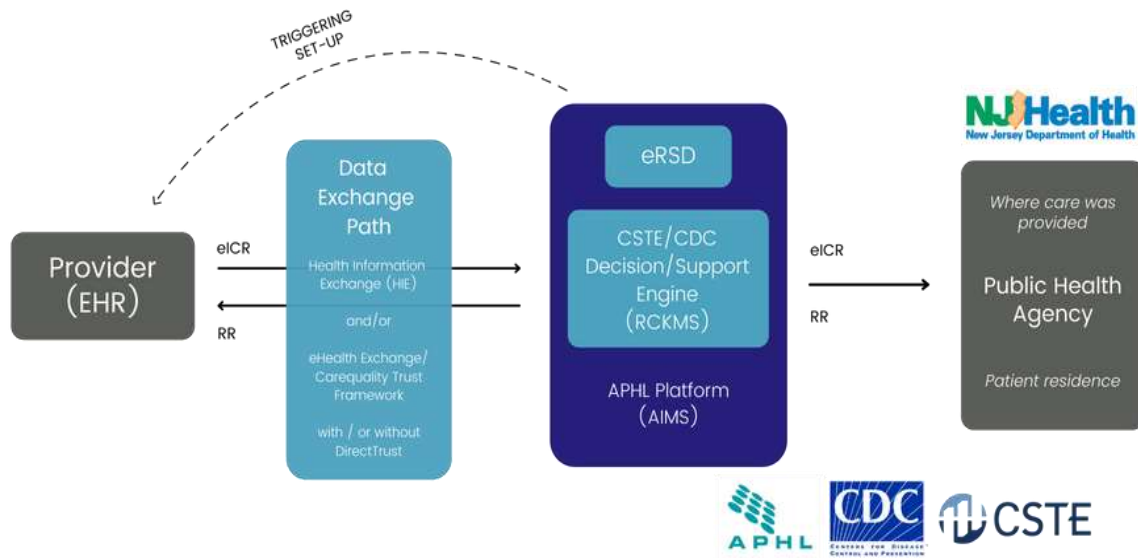
<https://www.nj.gov/health/meaningfuluse/ecr/>

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# What is eCR?

Electronic case reporting (eCR) is the automated identification of reportable health events in electronic health records and their transmission to state and local public health authorities for disease investigation and public health response. eCR captures critical patient and clinical data regarding demographics, comorbidities, immunizations, medications, and other treatments, and greatly reduces the burden of manual reporting. Data is reported leveraging the national eCR standards.



#### HL7 STANDARDS

eICR – Electronic Initial Case Report CDA v1.1 > CDA v3.0 (coming)  
 RR – Reportability Response CDA v 1.0  
 eCR – RHIR R2.0 (coming, includes FHIR, eICR, RR, and eRSD)

#### POSSIBLE POLICY AGREEMENTS

eHealth Exchange, Carequality, APHL Participation agreement

#### TERMS

RCKMS – Reportable Condition Knowledge Management System  
 eRSD – Electronic Reporting and Surveillance Distribution System  
 AIMS – Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Informatics Messaging Services

# Why Participate in eCR?

eCR supports healthcare providers to fulfill their [mandated reporting requirement](#) to New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and local health departments, and reliably report cases from their EHR faster and with more complete data than with traditional, manual reporting.

eCR also allows eligible professionals and hospitals to satisfy the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulatory requirements of the Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange objective for the [Promoting Interoperability Program \(PIP\)](#) and the [Merit-based Incentive Payment System \(MIPS\)](#).

Various steps need to be taken to facilitate the connectivity between a facility and the NJDOH, from transmitting patient data across the various data points, to successfully onboarding them on receiving and sending data.

## **eCR/eICR Standards**

New Jersey uses the [HL7 electronic initial case report \(eICR\) standards\(R1.1 and R3\)](#) for eCR and to support the new CMS Promoting Interoperability regulations for eCR.

## **Steps for Participation**



### **Step 1: Preparation**

- Validate that your EHR is on the [Certified IT Products List](#).
- Determine if your EHR can generate HL7 CDA RR2 or HL7 CDA R2 CCD.

### **Step 2: Registration**

- Communicate intent to participate in eCR by using the [NJDOH Form](#).
- NJDOH will connect you with the APHL Integrated Messaging Service

/onboarding (AIMS) team.

- General Availability Product Utilization: Healthcare Organizations (HCOs) using products in General Availability (as detailed in '[Getting Started with eCR | CDC](#)') are encouraged to initiate contact for onboarding procedures at [eCR@doh.nj.gov](mailto:eCR@doh.nj.gov).
- Verify/Register to the [Electronic Reporting and Surveillance Distribution](#) to guide triggering and reporting of reportable conditions.
  - NJDOH will maintain an up-to-date list of reportable conditions accepted for eCR by NJDOH.

### **Step 3: Connection**

- Work with your EHR vendor to implement a connection to the Association of Public Health Libraries (APHL) AIMS hub.
- If you have any questions, please contact us at [eCR@doh.nj.gov](mailto:eCR@doh.nj.gov).

### ***Transport Methods***

Connectivity with the APHL AIMS is supported by using platforms like eHealth Exchange, Commonwell, Carequality, or Direct SMTP. For details: [Exchange and Transport Options for eCR](#)

- NwHIN XDR using the eHealth Exchange HUB
- Direct Messaging

### **Step 4: Testing**

- Once connection has been established, you will enter a 'testing' status during which your eCR data will undergo basic testing and validation by AIMS and further testing and validation by NJDOH.

### ***In this phase, teams will:***

- Verify traffic on Test environments
- Test payload traffic on Test interfaces

- Troubleshoot any issues encountered during testing
- Validate data format
  - Prerequisite
    - Have an EHR that can create eCRs that validate successfully against the [online AIMS Validator](#).
- Validate data content

## **Step 5: Go Live**

When the previous readiness and implementation steps have been completed you are ready to go into production.

- After successfully testing, NJDOH, and CDC select date/time open on Go-Live.
- Partner verifies that the message was successfully sent and it has successfully received the "Reportability Response" (RR).
- NJDOH verifies that data was successfully received in the production system.

# Important Reminders

## Phase Requirements

Phase	What is Needed
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have a compliant EHR</li><li>• Ready to share</li><li>• Complete the <a href="#">NJDOH Form</a></li></ul>
Active Engagement Option 1: Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initiate HCO onboarding for General Availability products</li><li>• Collaborating with NJDOH and CDC to fulfill all pre-testing prerequisites</li></ul>
Active Engagement Option 2: Testing and Validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed Option 1</li><li>• Facility or Provider is in process of testing and validation of the electronic submission of data</li><li>• Facility or Provider is in contact with NJDOH for last 30 days for any questions/concerns</li></ul>
Active Engagement Option 3: Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed Option 2</li><li>• Facility or Provider is electronically submitting production data to the NJDOH</li></ul>

### **\*\*Important Notes\*\***

- Do not discontinue your existing reporting method for electronic case reported conditions until you receive official notification from NJDOH authorizing this action.
- Rollout of the conditions for eCR will be staggered in phases and not all conditions will be immediately available to be processed via eCR. Your organization will still be responsible for submitting/verifying those conditions.
- For attestation documentation to validate meeting CMS PIP requirements, please email: [eCR@doh.nj.gov](mailto:eCR@doh.nj.gov).
- Providers are required to report communicable disease reports to the public health agency as per the New Jersey Administrative Code Title 8, Chapter 57. As per the eCR use case, providers would transmit reports from an electronic health record to public health for further investigation, review, and action, leveraging the national eCR standards.

*Additional Resources:*

*[Understanding eCR Standards](#)*

*[Getting Started with eCR](#)*

## **Contact Us**

Have any questions? Contact us at [eCR@doh.nj.gov](mailto:eCR@doh.nj.gov)