



Use Case: Public Health Officials Access to ULP for Disease Investigations

Overview

Public Health Officials are authorized by law pursuant to W. Va. Code § 16-1-6(b) and (g), and §16-2-11(a)(1)(iii) to perform Disease Investigations for many reportable conditions. The WVHIN would like to make its clinical data available to disease investigators to improve efficiency and enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of their disease investigation activities, including but not limited to, outbreak or exposure investigations and associated investigation case-findings.

Permitted Purpose Category

For a permitted Public Health Purpose, as authorized by Applicable Law and consistent with the mission of the Health Information Exchange (HIE) to advance the health and wellness of patients in the WVHIN service area by preventing or controlling the further spread of communicable disease conditions and other public health threats.

Technical Design

Technical capability exists.

Use Case Description

Disease Investigators, including those Bureau for Public Health and Local Health Departments Workforce Members engaged in case investigation and contact tracing, tasked with gathering important detailed information for conditions such as Clostridium Difficile, Tuberculosis, and COVID-19, spend considerable time with data collection. From calling and interviewing patients and notifying close contacts, to obtaining medical records from hospitals and practices, providing access to the WVHIN's Unified Landing Page (ULP) will prove valuable. The WV Bureau for Public Health and Local Health Departments will select disease investigators to obtain access to the ULP for the express purpose of viewing lab data (PCR, Microbiology results), prior visit history (to understand where patients have sought care), care team information, and up-to-date demographic information contained in the WVHIN Master Patient Index (address, phone number, etc).

Opt-Out Applicability

Any patient that opts out of WVHIN will not have their data made available in the Unified Landing Page.

Eligible Participants

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health and Local Health Departments Workforce Members.

Approval

This Use Case Policy has been approved by the WVHIN Clinical and Data Use Committee during the meeting held on January 25, 2019 and approved by the Board of Directors during the meeting held April 26, 2019. It was further modified by the WVHIN Clinical and Data Use Committee at the June 26, 2020 meeting and approved as modified by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on July 24, 2020.