

Patient Access APIs

Requirements for ARRA & MIPS Promoting Interoperability

March 20, 2019: Late last year, MEDITECH published an [Interoperability Regulatory Playbook](#) as a planning tool for several interface projects which will be used to meet regulatory requirements in 2019 & 2020. One of these projects is the Patient Access API functionality for the ARRA Promoting Interoperability program and the MIPS Promoting Interoperability category; specifically for the Provider to Patient Exchange and the Patient Electronic Access objectives. This document provides the latest information on the set up required to enable the API functionality for Patient Access.

Overview

The Provide Patients Electronic Access to Their Health Information, or the Provide Patient Access measures, require that the patient is provided access to view, download and transmit their health information AND that health information is made available for the patient to access via an API using an application of their choice.

Our best practices outline the 3 ways to capture that access was offered or provided to the patient: 1) Query 2) Discharge/Depart Forms or 3) Enrollment. Any of these actions will count towards the measure. Visit MEDITECH's [Regulatory Page](#) to view the best practice documentation.

For more details, review the CMS specifications.

- [Medicare EHs/CAHs Dual-eligible hospitals \(Performance-based\)](#)
- [QPP MIPS for Eligible Clinicians \(Performance-based\)](#)
- [Medicaid for EHs/CAHs \(Threshold-based\)](#)
- [Medicaid for Eligible Professionals \(Threshold-based\)](#)

Future educational offerings will be posted on our [Online Seminars](#) page under Regulatory. These seminars will cover the workflows in both the acute and ambulatory environments.

Enabling Patient Access API Functionality

In the specifications noted above, it states "To implement an API, the eligible hospital, CAH provider, Eligible Professional or MIPS Eligible Clinician would need to fully enable the API functionality such that any application chosen by a patient would enable the patient to gain access to their individual health information provided the application is configured to meet the technical specifications of the API." MEDITECH has outlined below the steps to enable Patient Access API functionality within your MEDITECH EHR.

1. **Obtain MEDITECH's 2015 edition CEHRT** The majority of our customers have already updated to the 2015 edition CEHRT, or are in the process of doing so. If you are unsure if you have received this certified code, please contact your Account Manager/HCIS coordinator.
2. **Deploy RESTful API infrastructure** A TECH task titled "Hardware Evaluation: Stage 3 Requirements" should exist to track this project. Speaking generally, the set up will require an API server, a database server, and a load balancer/proxy. Server and network configuration will need to be completed by your organization, according to [this document](#), prior to MEDITECH deploying the API Services. If you have not yet started this project, please contact your Technical Account Manager (TAM) or MAGIC customers contact Systems Support.

3. Common Clinical Data Set Build

Once REST infrastructure has been deployed, you will be scheduled to implement the Stage 3 compliant CCD. As part of this project, you will complete the build of the Common Clinical Data Set. This is the same data set exposed for patients to access their data via an application API.

4. Accept delivery of additional changes for Patient Access

An NMI Mass Delivery Task titled "MD: Additional Changes for PI3 Patient Access APIs" will track delivery of these changes. 6x/Expanse tasks were opened in February. MAGIC/CS tasks will be opened in late March/early April. As a part of this delivery, you will receive the following enhancements.

- Portal Authentication (for MEDITECH Portal customers only): These changes will allow MEDITECH Patient Portal customers to use the credentials they created for portal access to access their common clinical data set via an application API, if they so choose.
- Resource IDs: Some vendors use the FHIR resource ID as a unique identifier to perform READ interactions and/or in the deduplication of data. These changes will add such a unique identifier to each patient's clinical data file (CDF).

We expect that there will be additional changes needed prior to fully enabling the Patient Access APIs for patient use, however, this will not prevent you from beginning setup and testing of the Patient Access APIs in your TEST environment. MEDITECH will inform you of any additional changes as they become available.

5. Set up of an Identity Provider (IdP) or Authentication using MEDITECH's Patient Portal

If you are using MEDITECH's Patient Health and Consumer Health Portal solution, the portal authentication changes listed above will allow a patient to use their portal credentials for authentication, eliminating the need for a 3rd party IdP. If you are not using MEDITECH's portal solution, a 3rd party IdP will need to be set up. MEDITECH has tested using Google's Identity Solution, but any IdP can be used as long as it uses OpenID Connect.

6. Update your REST deployment

The most current versions of REST/IOPS will need to be in place prior to testing with an app. MEDITECH will work with you to determine if your REST deployment needs to be updated.

7. Develop Processes for Providing Access and Onboarding apps

It will be up to your organization to develop a process by which patients are provided access to their health information via an app. As noted earlier in this document, the methods by which this will be counted towards the measure are outlined in our Best Practice documentation for Provider to Patient Exchange. You will also need an organizational strategy for how to vet and onboard any app that a patient presents. MEDITECH will not be providing a list of endorsed apps at this time.

For any app your organization approves for usage, MEDITECH strongly recommends app testing occur in MEDITECH Greenfield prior to any testing in your MEDITECH environment. When you feel you're ready to start this process, open an NMI task to get started.

Important Next Steps

Once steps 1 through 4 above are complete, MEDITECH will open an NMI task to track the setup and testing of the Patient Access APIs. Our Interoperability team will work with you to set up an IdP or Portal Authentication, update your REST deployment, if necessary, and onboard any apps that you wish to test with.

Questions

General inquiries can be directed to our [REST API Customer Mailbox](#). Specific issues and testing examples should be reported to MEDITECH via an NMI Service Issue.