



SEP 23 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to inform you of a major change to annual performance reporting for the Indian Health Service (IHS). Each year, the IHS reports its performance results (also known as budget measures) in the annual President's budget request to Congress. Budget measures include required reporting of IHS's Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and Government Performance and Results Modernization Act (GPRAMA) clinical performance results.

In fiscal year (FY) 2016, the IHS plans to begin preparations to implement the Integrated Data Collection System Data Mart (IDCS DM), a new reporting mechanism within the National Data Warehouse (NDW). The IDCS DM provides a mechanism for Tribes and Urban health programs that do not use the IHS's Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) to participate in GPRA and GPRAMA reporting. I am requesting your input on Tribal health program needs and interests associated with this new reporting mechanism.

Historically, a majority of Tribal health programs have used the RPMS as their health information system, with GPRA and GPRAMA performance data for these Tribal programs included with IHS data in reporting. Agency clinical GPRA and GPRAMA submissions in support of the IHS budget have never included data from Tribal health programs that do not use RPMS. With increasing numbers of Tribal health programs electing to purchase commercial health information systems, Tribal participation has decreased.

Many Tribes that use commercial health information systems have expressed a desire to continue participating in national GPRA and GPRAMA reporting in support of the IHS budget. The IDCS DM provides a mechanism for non-RPMS Tribal health programs to submit export files that meet IHS Office of Information Technology (OIT) standards for reporting to the National Patient Information Reporting System (please see the OIT Web site for more information: https://www.ihs.gov/NDW/index.cfm?module=dsp_dqw_hl7interface). An "opt-out" feature in the IDCS DM will be available for Tribal programs that do not want their data included in GPRA and GPRAMA reporting. Under IDCS DM, GPRA and GPRAMA results can be calculated from data exported to the NDW, regardless of the electronic health information system used locally.

The major performance reporting changes include:

- Updated Data Source – Agency clinical performance reporting has used the RPMS Clinical Reporting System (CRS) since 2005. The IHS will begin reporting IDCS DM results in FY 2018.
- User Population Estimates – The IDCS DM will standardize the use of User Population Estimates as the denominator for the clinical GPRA and GPRAMA measures.

- Reporting Year – The GPRA and GPRAMA reporting year (July 1 – June 30), will change to match the User Population Estimates reporting year (October 1 – September 30).
The GPRA and GPRAMA year change consolidates local efforts to simultaneously submit one final export to meet the same User Population and GPRA and GPRAMA deadlines.
- Enables Full IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Program (I/T/U) Participation –
The I/T/U population may be better represented in performance data because Urban and non-RPMS user data can now be reported with national results.

I have asked Area Directors to identify an upcoming Area meeting or schedule a conference call to consult with Tribes on the IDCS DM implementation by October 31. I am requesting your input and feedback to gauge Tribal interest in IDCS DM participation in the following areas:
1) ways to make the system easy to use; 2) ways to communicate system updates; and 3) ways to identify potential barriers and challenges (e.g., costs, if any).

Thank you for your partnership as we work to improve the collection and reporting of the Agency's national performance results. I encourage you to share this letter with your health care administrators, GPRA coordinator, health information technology staff, and others, as appropriate.

Please submit your written comments by **October 31, 2015**. You can submit your input by e-mail to consultation@ihs.gov or by postal mail to: Mr. Robert McSwain, Deputy Director, IHS, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 440, Rockville, Maryland, 20852.

If you have any questions about the consultation process or the IDCS DM implementation, please contact the IHS Office of Public Health Support by telephone at (301) 443-0222, or send an e-mail to HQ_OPHSidcs@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Robert G. McSwain/

Robert G. McSwain
Deputy Director

Enclosure: IHS Integrated Data Collection System Data Mart Fact Sheet