

# Virginia Department of Health ELR Submission Checklist HL7 version 2.5.1

This checklist is general guidance for eligible hospitals and laboratories in preparing and submitting electronic laboratory reports to the Virginia Department of Health. For Meaningful Use (MU) Stage 1, providers must complete Steps 1-3. For MU Stage 2, providers must demonstrate ongoing progress towards Step 5. All eligible hospitals must achieve Meaningful Use under the Stage 1 criteria before moving to Stage 2. Please visit the VDH MU website (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/meaningfuluse/>) for detailed instructions.

## Step 1: Registration

- Register intent to submit ELR messages for Meaningful Use through the [VDH Meaningful Use Registration System](#).
- Download and review the [Virginia Department of Health Electronic Lab Report Implementation Guide, HL7 version 2.5.1](#) and the [HL7 Version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide: Electronic Laboratory Reporting to Public Health, Release 1 \(US Realm\)](#).
- Download and review the [Conditions Reportable by Directors of Laboratories in Virginia](#).
- Schedule a planning call with VDH. Email [MeaningfulUse@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:MeaningfulUse@vdh.virginia.gov) or call (804) 864-8141.

## Step 2: Message Structure Validation

- Generate ELR messages with test data for structural validation. Include a variety of different findings.
- Refine messages using the [National Institute of Standards and Technology's \(NIST\) ELR conformance tool](#) using the "context-free" validation tab. Please be aware that the NIST validator does not assure that all message requirements will be met.
- Submit sample ELR test messages as .txt attachments to [MeaningfulUse@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:MeaningfulUse@vdh.virginia.gov). These messages should draw on data from a test environment. Refine messages based on VDH feedback.
- Submit list of laboratory's reportable LOINC/SNOMED vocabulary combinations. Please use the [Sample LOINC/SNOMED Table](#) as a template.

## Step 3: Connectivity

- Establish and test transport. Please work with [ConnectVirginia](#) to establish and test transport. Visit [Message Transport Options](#) for details.
- If attesting for Stage 1, VDH will provide you with acknowledgement of successful submission of test message(s) at the completion of this step.

## Step 4: Message Content Validation

- Generate ELR messages with production data for content validation.
- Submit messages for content validation to VDH through ConnectVirginia. Refine messages as needed, based on feedback from the VDH programs that will be receiving the data.
- Fax copies of the lab reports submitted to the local health department for use in validation. Fax copies to (804) 864-7970, Attn: ELR Validation Team.

## Step 5: Production

- Initiate ongoing submission of ELR data and participate in periodic quality assurance activities.
- Continue with current paper-based reporting to the local health department in parallel with ELR until notified that submission of paper-based reports to the local health department can be stopped.