Making Electronic Data More Available for Research and Public Health (MedMorph)
Health Care Surveys Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Pilot

What is MedMorph? Why is it important?
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s MedMorph project aims to minimize burden on both senders and receivers of clinical data by providing an interoperable solution that enables automated reporting of EHR data. To meet this aim, MedMorph has developed a framework and software that builds upon FHIR and related standards. The MedMorph software can access EHR data as appropriate and report data through secure channels to public health agencies or research organizations, depending on project or reporting needs.

CDC is conducting multiple pilots of the MedMorph software to evaluate how well it works in real-world settings, the effort and resources it requires, and its scalability and sustainability. The current pilot project ("health care surveys pilot") will test the feasibility of applying the MedMorph framework and software as a new method of EHR data submission for the National Center for Health Statistics' National Hospital Care Survey and National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

Who can participate in this MedMorph pilot?
A total of four clinical sites can participate in the health care surveys pilot:

- One hospital with an ED (required) and outpatient department(s) (optional). The hospital must either be an academic medical center or a medium- or large-size community hospital.
- Two ambulatory provider group practices with >50 providers.
- One Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or set of FQHCs within a Health Center Controlled Network with >15 providers.

What does participation entail?
Participation entails (1) technical implementation of the MedMorph reference architecture and (2) participation in a short-term evaluation. For technical implementation, clinical sites are expected to work with their EHR vendor and the CDC and its partners to: (1) implement the MedMorph software within their EHR production environment; perform a series of steps to demonstrate the functionality of MedMorph; and submit encounter EHR data over a 3-month period. For the short-term evaluation, sites will be asked to participate in biweekly meetings and interviews, and provide information regarding their implementation experience and level of effort to inform analyses of pilot feasibility. While actual hours may vary based on each site's technical readiness and level of EHR vendor support, clinical sites can expect to be involved in the pilot over a 6-8 month time period.

Why participate in this MedMorph pilot?
MedMorph is a cutting-edge platform that is being implemented across multiple Federal initiatives, such as automated public health reporting. By participating in this pilot, clinical sites will have a unique opportunity to work with CDC on an innovative new approach, helping to test new functionality that will reduce reporting burden of clinical providers, advance interoperability, and provide rapid access to critical clinical data.

What type of support is available?
Clinical sites will be offered an honorarium of up to $30K for their work on the pilot. Clinical sites will receive technical assistance from CDC and its partners and contractors as needed.

What are the requirements to participate and next steps?
Clinical sites must be in the process of implementing/adopting an EHR version that supports selected FHIR R4 APIs as specified in the MedMorph Reference Architecture Implementation Guide (IG). For additional technical information and requirements, please also see the Health Care Survey Content IG. Sites interested in participating in the pilot will receive more detailed technical specifications.

For more information or if you are interested in participating, please contact Eric Pan at ericpan@westat.com.