



August 15, 2017

Greetings,

I would like to thank the hospitals that participated in the Drug Overdose Reporting Pilot. The pilot was extremely helpful in resolving unforeseen issues as we prepare for a statewide rollout of Drug Overdose Reporting as required by recently enacted Tennessee law. This project will assist in all of our efforts to better understand and address the opioid epidemic in the State of Tennessee.

Following the successful pilot, the Tennessee Department of Health will now begin onboarding hospitals and emergency departments statewide for Drug Overdose Reporting. As you know, per Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-1-104, "*the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee may obtain records maintained by any facility licensed under this title to facilitate investigations and inquiries concerning opioid drug abuse, opioid drug overdoses, and opioid overdose deaths.*" To further facilitate this work, please provide a contact list for your organization with both a leadership and technical contact (persons familiar with computer interfaces and data exchange).

Please direct this list to TDH.Informatics@tn.gov with the Subject: Drug Overdose Reporting. Additional information is also available to you on the Drug Overdose Reporting web site: URL – <http://www.tn.gov/health/topic/pdo-drug-overdose-reporting>. If you have questions, please contact Rich Robles at TDH.Informatics@tn.gov, or Candace Tate at 615-253-4201.

The statewide implementation plan will be in phases as follows: early adoption will commence immediately with the receipt of this announcement. The mandatory adoption phase is tentatively scheduled for mid-October. Each phase of onboarding (development through full implementation) is anticipated to take approximately 9 to 11 weeks. Hospitals and emergency departments statewide will be required to initiate this data reporting requirement by March 31, 2018. TDH will release an engagement report in the 4th Quarter of 2017 and a compliance report at the end of the 1st Quarter of 2018 to monitor the onboarding progress.

The attached Drug Overdose Reporting manual and application guide are provided to allow organizations to familiarize themselves with the data requested and to enable resource planning. TDH will be setting up several Drug Overdose Reporting webinars to review the provided material, answer questions, and to assist during the implementation of Drug Overdose Reporting.



Finally, we encourage all hospitals to initiate the Drug Overdose Reporting implementation as early as possible, preferably by January 1, 2018. Early adopters will find they have ready access to TDH resources, which will naturally become more engaged as the implementation progresses.

All of us recognize the critical nature of this ongoing epidemic and the loss of life and health we are suffering. We have done a great deal in Tennessee already and many things we can be proud of together, yet it has not been enough and we have much more to do to stop this epidemic, treat those who need it, and constrain future demand.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John J. Dreyzehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "ms" at the end.

John J. Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Commissioner