

## **The Future of Patient Data Reporting**

Hello everyone! My name is Anthony Tapney and I'm a manager in the Patient Data Section at OSHPD. I want to start off by saying thank you for taking the time to watch this video today. I hope that you are all doing well and staying safe during these rather challenging times.

Although most of our staff have not been physically in the office the past several months, we here at OSHPD have been quite busy looking at ways to improve the collection of patient data. So today, I want to talk with you about the future of MIRCal, including some big exciting changes our office is working on.

### **The Future of MIRCal:**

MIRCal Stands for the Medical Information Reporting for California (MIRCal)

- MIRCal provides a convenient and secure way for facilities to submit their patient-level data
- The design started in 1998, and it's been operational since 2002
- In addition, we began collecting Emergency Department and Ambulatory data in 2005
- It's been tried and true and reliable for all these years
- While MIRCal has been our workhorse, it's time for us to transition to a modern more customer focused platform. So today we want to announce to you all that starting early next year we are integrating the collection of patient-level administrative data into our System for Integrated Electronic Reporting and Auditing (our SIERA) platform.

### **System for Integrated Electronic Reporting and Auditing (SIERA):**

Some of you may already be familiar with SIERA but I will give a little background for those of you who aren't

- The current system is used by OSHPD's other data programs for managing the collection of facility financial and utilization data, as well as our prescription drug cost data.
- The first phase of SIERA went live in 2010.
- SIERA was built in house and we have a team of developers who maintain the system.
- It is configurable and customizable so we're able to add the patient level data reporting functions to the existing system

### **SIERA/MIRCal Integration:**

I want to be very clear that the requirements for submitting patient-level data are not changing. We're only changing the system where you submit your data. The look and feel of many of the screens will be familiar. Additionally, our File and Format Specifications are staying the same as well.

It's cloud-based, like MIRCal, and runs on Microsoft Azure

We are also migrating data over from MIRCal to SIERA. For example, we are bringing over facility data and user profile information. This will ensure our edit programs are working properly and validation runs smoothly. To further help with the transition, we'll be releasing additional training videos to provide more insight on the new platform and guidance on how to access your user profile. Please be on the lookout for these future videos in the coming months.

## **Benefits:**

Integrating MIRCal data reporting into SIERA will be beneficial to our stakeholders as well internally to OSHPD operations.

- We will have a user-friendly interface. We have combined several of the main webpages from MIRCal into one interactive dashboard.
- SIERA will be User-Based instead of Facility-based like MIRCal. So now when you log into SIERA, you will have access to all the facilities that are associated with your profile. You will no longer have to log in multiple times for each facility. In other words, you will have one username and password for all the facilities that you are affiliated with.
- Not to get too technical, but when a file is submitted, SIERA reads and validates the data differently and will ensure faster processing times.
- We will also benefit internally with the move to SIERA and will have more internal resources at our fingertips.
- SIERA will be more configurable. We will be able to configure the system to mirror a lot of the aspects of MIRCal and improve on the features that needed improvement.
- In general, it will be easier to maintain. We'll have a team of developers that are highly experienced with the system and the way it's built. Unfortunately, MIRCal is older technology that has very few resources left.
- Another benefit of this integration is that we are going to be building some exciting new features.

## **New Functionality:**

We surveyed facilities back in October 2019. Some of the main requests were to:

- Be able to create your own custom reports, including sorting and filtering of the data;
- Having a user-based platform where you no longer have to sign in multiple times for each facility
- The ability to not only test the file format, but also to test the file through full validation even with partial data; and
- Lastly, having better communication about upcoming changes and tips, along with easy access to our tools and resources.

All the functionality I just mentioned will be incorporated into the new system. Your feedback is very important to us and is guiding us in the development of some of these new features.

## **Go-Live Dates:**

I'm sure you're all thinking, when is this going to happen?

Our goal is for facilities to submit all 2021 data into SIERA.

We are looking to open SIERA for manual record entry for IP, ED, and AS data beginning Jan. 1. 2021.

Reporting in SIERA will mirror the semi-annual and quarterly report periods for IP, ED, and AS

Please note that all 2020 data will still need to be reported through MIRCal.

This slide shows our current target dates. As with any IT project there may be some adjustments to the schedule, but this is what we're currently working towards.

If there are any changes to our dates, we'll be sure to update our facilities via our Quick Notes Bulletins and many other forms of outreach.

**Summary:**

In summary, MIRCal is being Integrated into SIERA. Patient-Level data reporting requirements are not changing. It will be beneficial for internal and external users. We will have newer more modern features and lastly, all 2021 data will be submitted through SIERA.

Our team will be here to assist you throughout this transition and answer any questions you may have.

**Contact Information:**

I've included our new SIERA patient-level data email address in case you have any questions. You can email us directly, or feel free to reach out to your assigned analyst.

**Resources:**

Lastly, I've included links to some important resources and tools for all things Patient Data Section.

With that, I want to thank all of you for viewing this video. Thank you all very much.