

Health IT and Its Role in Battling Zika

WHAT IS ZIKA AND HOW IS IT SPREAD?

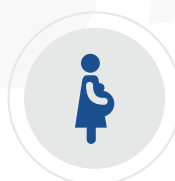
Zika is a virus spread primarily through an infected mosquito bite, but it can also be spread through sexual transmission. There is no vaccine or medicine currently available for Zika.

The most up-to-date information about Zika can be found at www.cdc.gov/Zika.

COMMON SYMPTOMS



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), common symptoms include fever, rash, joint and muscle pain, red eyes and headache, and can last several days to a week.



For pregnant women, however, Zika can cause more damaging, long-term effects to the baby such as Microcephaly and congenital brain abnormalities.

IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH IT IN COLLECTING ZIKA DATA

ONC and CMS are assisting state Medicaid agencies to use health information exchange and specialized registries to access and report Zika diagnoses and other conditions. Health information exchange can facilitate an effective strategy to help combat Zika, including:

- Surveillance
- Case management
- Public health reporting
- Laboratory testing
- Clinical data collection
- Case investigation and management
- Reporting of outcomes

CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR TRACKING ZIKA ELECTRONICALLY

There are currently no standard workflow protocols for reporting Zika cases electronically. From state to state, the processes are varied, and largely manual. The public health reporting system needs electronic workflows to transform how Zika data are gathered and disseminated.

Health IT Enabled Future State of Reporting

