Object Identifier (OID) Creation and Registration Instructions for Healthcare Facilities

These instructions describe the processes for requesting an OID and—for parent organizations with sub-facilities—registering OIDs for sub-organizations. The document was created by Altarum Institute, under contract with the Michigan Department of Community Health, to support users of the Michigan Syndromic Surveillance System.

OID Use in the Michigan Syndromic Surveillance System (MSSS)

The MSSS requires the use of OIDs in the syndromic message. The Facility OID used in EVN-7 corresponds to the Event Facility, which is the location where the patient was treated. The OID used in MSH-4 should represent the sender of the message. For example, if a patient is seen at Lansing Central Hospital and it is part of the Lansing Hospital System, which has a unified EHR, the Lansing Hospital System OID would go in MSH-4 and the Lansing Central Hospital OID would go into EVN-7. If the Event Facility (location of patient treatment) is also the sender of the message, MSH-4 may be the same as EVN-7. In the example given, the Lansing Hospital System OID would be a “root OID” and the Lansing Central Hospital OID would be a “sub-organizational OID.”

Creating a New OID

2. Click Obtain or Register an OID.
3. Complete the submitter information.

4. Click Continue.
5. Confirm Submitter Information is accurate or edit it as needed.
6. Enter contact information. This can be a technical contact that will deal with the OID.
7. Enter responsible body (organization) contact information.
8. In the **Internal or External OID** section, specify if you need a new OID created by HL7 (“internal”) or have an OID already that was created by an “external” entity (not HL7). From the FAQ ([http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=HL7_OID_Registry_Frequently_Asked_Questions](http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=HL7_OID_Registry_Frequently_Asked_Questions)), it states: “When you choose ‘Internal’, an OID will be assigned under the HL7 branches, with the numeric value of the OID generated by the website software automatically. When you choose ‘External’, you must enter the numeric format of an OID you already have (assigned by a Registration Authority other than HL7) into the form field just below.”

9. Select an **OID Type**: Most facilities will choose **Type 3** or **Type 17**.
   - **Type 3** if “the Organization plans to assign OIDs under its new OID for various namespaces, code systems, sub-organizations, or for other related purposes.”
   - **Type 17** if “there are no plans to assign OIDs of your own under the new OID.”

Additional info from FAQ on Type 3: “Type 3 OIDs are used for organizations that wish to create their own trees of OIDs for their use, and may be requested or registered by anyone. If you will be assigning OIDs yourself under the OID that you are applying for, then you should select Type 3. This effectively delegates Registration Authority to your organization for all OIDs under this new Type 3 OID, and you agree to follow the rules on OID creation and maintenance specified in the ISO 9834
series of standards on OID governance for those you will create. No one else anywhere will create OIDs under your new root, all OIDs under it are your responsibility solely. Every OID created ‘under’ this new root will be considered by HL7 to be an ‘external’ OID, since you will have created it external to the HL7 OID Registry OID assignment software, and if you wish to register any that you create under your new root, you will have to register them as ‘external’ in this registry.”

10. Select an External OID Subtype: Field can be ignored if you selected the “Internal” radio button (to have HL7 create a new OID). If you are bringing in an OID created by an external (to HL7) entity, specify what type it is (likely Type 3 or 17). From the FAQ: “This is used only when an externally created OID in a tree of OIDs maintained by a Registration Authority outside of HL7 has a branch node that serves to help organize the tree, but does not itself identify any object. If the node is used to help organize objects of a specific type, like a sub-tree of identifier namespaces or local coding systems, then this should be set to the type of object being organized.”

11. Ignore the V2.x Linkage field—it’s not required for Types 3 or 17.

12. Leave Preferred Realm set as the default selection—UV (Universal).

13. Enter a Desired Symbolic Name: This is a “nickname” you create for your facility or organization. From the FAQ: “The Symbolic Name in the HL7 OID registry is intended to be a relatively short human-readable name for the OID, since the integer values are not as human readable.” It must start with a lowercase letter, and contain only letters, digits, and hyphens. The last character can’t be a hyphen, nor can there be two consecutive hyphens in the name. It must be unique within the OID tree (multiple facilities in an organization’s OID can’t have the same symbolic name). I found one example of “scptype”.

14. Enter the Full Name for Object (Title). This is the name of the facility/organization described with the unique Symbolic Name.

15. Enter a Description of the Object identified by the OID (Be as comprehensive as you wish). This is an optional field in which you can describe the facility/organization represented by the OID being requested.

16. Click Continue.
17. Record your OID and OID Key. These are required if you ever need to edit the entry at HL7. The person identified in the Contact Information section will also receive an email with the OID and OID key.

If you registered for a Type 3 Registration (root) OID, see the next section for information on how to assign OIDs to sub-organizations/facilities.

**Registering OIDs for your Sub-organizations**

Note: This is only for facilities that signed up as Registration Authorities (Type 3 OIDs).

If you are submitting public health data to Michigan from multiple sites (i.e., service locations), each site will need its own OID number, which will be your organization’s root OID (e.g., 888.888.88) plus some numbering scheme you define (e.g., 888.888.88.1, 888.888.88.2, 888.888.88.3). Since no other organization shares your root OID, you simply need to make sure the numbers you add create a unique OID for each sub-organization within your root.

You can only register sub-facilities/sub-organizations one at a time, so you will need to repeat the steps for each one.

19. Click **Obtain or Register an OID**.
20. Complete the submitter information.
21. Click **Continue**.
22. Confirm Submitter Information is accurate or edit it as needed.

23. Enter contact information. This can be a technical contact that will deal with the OID.

24. Enter responsible body (organization) contact information, including the organization’s root OID in the Responsible Body OID field.
25. In the Internal or External OID section, select the External OID radio button. This allows you to specify a sub-OID you have created (externally to HL7) and register it with an organization name you define. Remember that if you are registering multiple sub-organizations you must register them one at a time.

26. Enter an External OID /GUID. This is a combination of the root OID assigned to your Responsible Body organization and a numbering scheme you define to uniquely define the sub-facility/sub-organization.

![OID Creation and Registration Process for Healthcare Facilities](image)

27. For OID Type, select Type 17.
28. For External OID Subtype, select Type 17.
29. Ignore the V2.x Linkage field—it’s not required.
30. Leave Preferred Realm set as the default selection—UV (Universal).
31. Enter a Desired Symbolic Name: This is a “nickname” you create for your sub-facility or sub-organization. From the FAQ: “The Symbolic Name in the HL7 OID registry is intended to be a relatively short human-readable name for the OID, since the integer values are not as human readable.” It must start with a lowercase letter, and contain only letters, digits, and hyphens. The last character can’t be a hyphen, nor can there be two consecutive hyphens in the name. It must be unique within the OID tree (multiple facilities in an organization’s OID can’t have the same symbolic name).
32. Enter the Full Name for Object (Title). This is the name of the sub-facility/sub-organization described with the unique Symbolic Name.
33. Enter a **Description of the Object identified by the OID (Be as comprehensive as you wish)**. This is an optional field in which you can describe the sub-facility/sub-organization represented by the OID being registered.

34. Click **Continue**.

35. Record your OID and OID Key. These are required if you ever need to edit the entry at HL7.

36. Repeat steps 18–35 for each sub-facility/sub-organization that will be an “Event Facility” where patients are treated.