



# Lab Interoperability Cooperative

## BACKGROUND

The Lab Interoperability Cooperative (LIC) is a Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) grant-funded initiative to connect hospital laboratories with their related public health agencies and enable reportable laboratory results to be transmitted electronically. The CDC has awarded a two-year grant to the American Hospital Association (AHA), the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and Surescripts Network for Clinical Interoperability. This consortium provides the necessary technical assistance facilitating the connection between hospitals and public health agencies, resulting in real-time electronic results reporting. Real-time reporting has been a public health priority for several years and is a public health initiative included in Meaningful Use.

## BENEFITS

Electronic laboratory transmission has been shown to improve the timeliness of reporting, reduce data entry errors, and result in complete public health reports. The Lab Interoperability Collaborative provides resources to catalyze improvements in electronic reporting connectivity between hospital laboratories and public health agencies. Participating hospitals will receive, at no cost, technical, educational and support services provided by LIC for the duration of the grant.

## HOSPITAL COMMITMENT

Hospitals will be recruited through early Summer 2011. To participate, facilities will commit required staff, budget and other resources as necessary to undertake an interface project. However, data-mapping, implementation, education, and expert project assistance will be provided to hospitals by LIC as they move through the process.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The LIC is responsible for all services performed as part of the grant, including education, data readiness, standardization, implementation, certification and project management. The Surescripts Network for Clinical Interoperability will ensure security by enforcing all federal and state policies and standards for health information exchange.

## RECRUITMENT PROCESS AND PROJECT TIMELINE

Part of our outreach effort includes an assessment of where hospitals currently are in their efforts to meet the public health requirements of meaningful use. Therefore, we do encourage all facilities to participate in our checklist process. Once initial responses are reviewed, the LIC will identify a cross-section of facilities that will participate and receive LIC support. Qualifying criteria may include the number of beds, current use of electronic health records transmission and current computer software. The objective for the first year is to initiate the electronic transfer of health records to public health agencies in at least 85 percent of recruited labs. The goal for the second year is to maintain and improve the established electronic data reporting structures.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Facilities interested in participating in this project should appoint a lead contact to complete the Phase I Checklist by **APRIL 29, 2011**. The checklist can be found at [LabInteroperabilityCoop.org](http://LabInteroperabilityCoop.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT THE LIC PARTNERS  
AT [LIC@AHA.ORG](mailto:LIC@AHA.ORG).**