Recruitment Process for Hospitals Participating in the Lab Interoperability Cooperative

Starting now though early summer 2011, the Lab Interoperability Cooperative (LIC)—a Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) grant-funded initiative comprised of the American Hospital Association (AHA), the College of American Pathologists (CAP), and Surescripts Network for Clinical Interoperability—is recruiting hospitals to participate in a program that will connect hospital laboratories with their related public health agencies and enable reportable laboratory results to be transmitted electronically.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The Cooperative is seeking a minimum of 500 hospital laboratories nationwide to participate in the program, including 100 critical access hospitals. Criteria for selection to receive resources may include the number of beds in a hospital, utilization of or type of electronic health records, or geographic location. The objective for the first year is to perform at least one successful test of the electronic transfer of reportable public health results 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 DO I PARTICIPATE?

To help determine if your hospital laboratory is eligible to participate, please answer the questions on the checklist found here. The checklist is designed to determine a hospital's readiness and ability to participate in this pilot. The LIC in cooperation with the CDC will determine, after review of all the responses, which hospitals will best represent a cross-section of the country.

WHAT TYPE OF FACILITIES WILL QUALIFY?

The LIC's goal is to include a wide variety of hospitals at various stages of capability and implementation. This will help enable all hospitals to learn from this pilot and each other, thereby improving their processes. Participating in this stage of outreach does not automatically guarantee a hospital's inclusion in the pilot.

Also, the LIC understands that at Critical Access and small, rural facilities staff may be quite limited. In some instances, one person might be performing all of these roles. This does not preclude your participation, and we encourage you to complete the checklist process.

WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF WE QUALIFY?

Once the LIC has evaluated the checklist submissions, it may extend an invitation to participate in a more in-depth information gathering phase to determine the initial group of participants. Although it is challenging to predict exactly when the LIC will receive readiness responses from hospitals meeting selection criteria, it's anticipated that the pilot will begin in early summer, with waves of additional participants following throughout the year.

Visit LabInteroperabilityCoop.org for additional information.