Laboratory Results Interface (LRI) Implementation Guide (IG)

Purpose: *To provide guidance on standardizing laboratory results reporting to ambulatory providers in support of meaningful use objectives for decision support, quality reporting, transitions in care, and release of information.*

WHY THE LRI IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE?

Cost/Time: A typical interface between a laboratory information system (LIS) and electronic health record (EHR) costs around $50,000 and implementation can take up to six months. The expense and complexity of these interfaces, which lead to lengthy implementation timelines, are due primarily to the lack of consistent application of industry standards for ambulatory lab result reporting. The LRI IG addresses this issue by providing an unambiguous specification for ambulatory lab reporting, significantly decreasing the need for mapping or unique configuration for each interface.

> **WHAT'S IN THE GUIDE?**
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> The guide contains the following:
> - ✓ LRI user story
> - ✓ Use case assumptions
> - ✓ In-scope test list
> - ✓ Standards for content, format, and vocabulary

Standards: There has been a lack of guidance streamlining the application of technical standards for representation of lab test results in electronic and structured forms. The LRI IG defines the use of accepted standards (e.g., LOINC, OIDs, SNOMED CT, and UCUM) to streamline the electronic lab results reporting implementation process, which lowers the cost and complexity of lab results reporting and increases interoperability.

Meaningful Use: The final Meaningful Use (MU) Stage 2 core objectives for eligible hospitals (EHs) and professionals (EPs) include a requirement for incorporating more than 55% of lab results into EHRs as structured data. EHs also have a menu set objective to provide structured electronic lab results to EPs for more than 20% of labs ordered. The LRI IG explains the use case and the standards necessary for certified EHR technology to support these objectives.

WHO SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE GUIDE?

The LRI IG is an essential resource for any organization implementing structured lab information exchange between a LIS and an ambulatory EHR system. Using the LRI IG simplifies integration of discrete lab values into EHRs and helps to automate the process of sending results out of the LIS.

WHERE CAN I ACCESS THE GUIDE?

The guide is available on the LRI Initiative Wiki and its final balloted DSTU version is available from HL7. To access the guide, please click here.