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National Survey on Health Information Exchange in Clinical Laboratories

HealthIT.govSM

Sponsored by:

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health
Information Technology's (ONC)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Purpose of Survey

The National Survey on Health Information Exchange in Clinical Laboratories is a new data collection effort that will provide a comprehensive understanding of electronic laboratory information exchange capacity and activity at the state and national level. Laboratory tests are a critical element in patient care significantly influencing 70 to 80 percent of clinical decisions. Communication and the subsequent exchange of information among provider offices and clinical laboratories are integral to quality of patient care.

This survey is sponsored by The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). Crucial information on laboratory information exchange across the United States will be collected, including the volume of laboratory information exchange, laboratory information exchange standards, current systems and technical architecture, and barriers and facilitators of laboratory information exchange.

Who?

This study will rely on data gathered from key informants such as, Laboratory Managers or Directors and Laboratory Information System Specialists at the sampled laboratories. About 14,000 hospital and independent laboratories have been selected to participate. Your participation is very important to the success of this survey.

Why was my lab selected?

Your lab has been selected from a listing of all laboratories in the United States. The source of this listing is the Online Survey, Certification and Reporting database maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Your lab was randomly selected from this list of laboratories and from across the country. Your participation is crucial because no lab can replace yours.

How does this survey work?

Enclosed in this mailing is a hard copy survey questionnaire that you are asked to complete for your laboratory. A postage-paid envelope is provided in which you may return the completed survey. The questionnaire includes basic questions on a variety of topic areas such as:

- *General background information*
- *Current lab and technical systems*
- *Methodology used for lab results and exchange process*
- *Lab exchange standards and barriers to exchange*
- *Implementation of guidelines and regulations for electronic lab result submissions*

After participation is complete, we will provide your laboratory with a summary report of the survey findings.

Intended Uses of the Data

ONC will use these findings to develop a comprehensive understanding of the baseline level of laboratory information exchange. This information will inform program activities and policy efforts to promote laboratory information exchange and provide more targeted assistance to states in developing their laboratory information exchange strategies. Ultimately, the data and results will guide ONC and other federal agencies on future policy for laboratory information exchange.

Confidentiality

Your responses will be kept private adhering to strict participant confidentiality. Under Section 934(c) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 USC 299c-3(c), you will be told the purposes for which the information is collected and that, in accordance with this statute, any potentially identifiable information will not be used or disclosed for any other purpose. Data will be collected in conformance with the Privacy Act of 1974. All respondent materials sent to you at the sampled laboratory will advise you that the information you provide on behalf of the laboratory will be kept confidential. During data collection, our Federal contractor, NORC at the University of Chicago, will incorporate numerous safeguards for your data. Participation in this survey is voluntary.