



Division of Laboratory Systems

# Standardization of Test Result Communication

## Introduction

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# Past CLIAC Discussions

November 2-3, 2016: CLIAC Institute of Medicine (IOM) Workgroup - Communication of Test Results

- Workgroup Charge: Review and discuss key recommendations in the 2015 IOM Report, [Improving Diagnosis in Health Care](#), to provide background information and input to CLIAC for their consideration in making recommendations to HHS Agencies.

# CLIAC November 2016 Recommendation

- Recommendation 1a:

CMS should convene a multidisciplinary group\* to

- Generate a report describing a process for healthcare institutions to improve safe communication and follow-up of diagnostic test results to providers and/or patients with clear guidelines on timelines for communicating those results.
- Provide an implementation and evaluation plan for the process.
- Examples of guidance for the report include the 2015 VHA policy on communicating test results, A similar project was the CDC's Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs

# CLIAC November 2016 Recommendation 2

- Recommendation 1b:

CMS should recommend that healthcare institutions create an interdisciplinary team comprised of clinical and diagnostic healthcare professionals, health IT, and other safety/human factors experts. This team should conduct periodic institutional self-assessments to address areas of risk and improvement related to safe communication and follow-up of diagnostic results.

An example of guidance includes the [Test Results Reporting & Follow-up](#) ONC SAFER Guide.

# CLIA Requirements for Test Reporting

## § 493.1251 Standard: Procedure manual.

(b) The procedure manual must include the following when applicable to the test procedure:

(13) The laboratory's system for entering results in the patient record and reporting patient results including, when appropriate, the protocol for reporting imminently life-threatening results, or panic, or alert values.

## § 493.1291 Standard: Test report.

(a) The laboratory must have an adequate manual or electronic system(s) in place to ensure test results and other patient-specific data are accurately and reliably sent from the point of data entry (whether interfaced or entered manually) to final report destination, in a timely manner.

# Presentation

## **Communicating Test Results to Providers and Patients: An Overview of the VHA Directive 1088 and Electronic Test Result Communication in the Era of the 21st Century Cures Act**

Dr. Hardeep Singh

Dr. David Hunt

# Questions to CLIAC

1. What opportunities and challenges exist for ensuring safe communication of test results to providers and patients?
2. Should CLIA be updated to improve nationwide test reporting back to the healthcare provider, and if so, how?
3. Is there educational information that should be provided to laboratory professionals to promote safe communication of all test results? If yes, what specific material should be developed and disseminated?

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## Thank You

For more information, contact CDC  
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TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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