

All Together Now!

Orchestrating the Electronic Transmission of Pathology Data into the Manitoba Cancer Registry

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Objectives

- Establish the electronic transmission of narrative pathology and cytology reports to the Manitoba Cancer Registry (MCR) from all public and private labs
- Develop achievable HL7 message specification regardless of lab information system (LIS) sophistication
- Incorporate HL7 best-practices established by national and international standard-setters



Purpose

- Improve the timeliness of reports sent to the MCR
- Alleviate Registry workflow issues associated with manual, paper-based systems and storage
- Reduce human decision-making error as to which reports should be sent to the MCR

Approach

- Negotiate agreements between parties defining roles and responsibilities and the long-term maintenance of feeds
- Foster partner relationships providing structure, leadership and support, sharing of information and lessons learned
- Engage a wide range of stakeholders from kick-off to conformance testing

Process

- Implement HL7 specification; test for conformance
- Deploy an adaptable case-ascertainment solution
- Adopt an iterative and collaborative quality management process
- Standardize Conformance Testing policy and procedure, engaging a wide variety of stakeholders
- Monitor each feed for at least six months before transitioning to operations



ePath Conformance Testing, May 2011 - LifeLabs project manager and Trainor Laboratory senior medical personnel join MCR registrars to review the accuracy of pathology and cytology reports in the ePath queue to ensure the data is flawless from all perspectives.

" My ePath experience has been nothing but positive. I love everything about it! The system is very user friendly, it makes my job easier, and there is no paper to file- yahoo! "

- Judy Perry, Sr. Registry Clerk, Manitoba Cancer Registry

" ... through collaboration on the CCMB specifications we were able to conform to the expectations of the requirements and deploy the infrastructure to supply pathology data electronically. GDML is proud to be the first private lab to achieve this with CCMB. "

- Dave Brajkovich, Director Business Systems Applications Development, Gamma-Dynacare Medical Laboratories & the GDML clinical and technical team

Results

- Completed interfaces and feed transmissions; low CancerCare Manitoba overhead
- More reports reach MCR via electronic feed than fax/mail; information is more complete and standardized
- Faster to associate reports with existing patients and/or verify personal health information with Client Registry
- Narrative College of American Pathologist checklists included in Diagnostic Services Manitoba lab results
- Strong, reciprocal relationships with lab partners

Lessons Learned

- Successful ePath development requires intensive and rigorous review to ensure accuracy
- Time for review and coordination cannot be underestimated
- Expect the unexpected - thorough processes will produce a few curve balls