



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Electronic Laboratory Result Reporting Fact Sheet

For more information contact the Tennessee CEDS Surveillance & Epidemiology Program

The Tennessee Communicable and Environmental Disease Services Section (CEDS) Surveillance and Epidemiology program within the Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) has programmatic oversight of the diseases and conditions that are reportable to the State of Tennessee and how they are to be reported from hospitals, providers, and laboratories. This information sheet outlines basic information for three groups interested in Electronic Laboratory Result Reporting (ELR): any interested laboratory; interested providers; and hospitals or medical record vendors interested in Electronic Laboratory Result reporting (ELR), including those interested obtaining Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) “Meaningful Use” funding.

The benefits include the automation & standardization of the laboratory reporting process, freeing up resources used for manual documentation and reporting, and the possible elimination of paper laboratory reporting. ELR can promote more timely laboratory reporting, and can ultimately improve the validity and reliability of information for better case detection, surveillance, and disease investigation activities.

1. Any laboratory interested in sending reportable laboratory results electronically to the State of TN

- a. **Who may participate:** Laboratories currently reporting conditions to TDOH, including hospital and clinical laboratories, public health labs, and regional and national laboratories, who wish to explore sending these results electronically using standard messages.
- b. **What is reportable:** Reports of laboratory results indicating diseases declared to be communicable and/or dangerous to the public are to be reported to the TN Department of Health. Please visit <http://health.state.tn.us/ceds/notifiable.htm> for specific details on the list of diseases that are reportable in the State of Tennessee.
- c. **What will be sent and how:** Those reporting can send electronic laboratory result reports (ELR) messages following either the HL7 2.5.1 OR 2.3.1 ELR Implementation Guide for Public Health Reporting to the Tennessee Department of Health. Messages can be sent via several different transport methods and the method to be used will be determined during testing.
- d. **To learn more:** To contact TDOH CEDS Surveillance and Epidemiology program about ELR activities call (615) 741-3570 or email Erin.Holt@tn.gov.

2. Any provider interested in sending reportable laboratory results electronically the State of TN

- a. **If you are an interested provider:** Individual providers typically do not send laboratory result reports to the Department of Health. However, providers are required to send Public Health Case Reports to the Department of Health, which often times include laboratory information. Please visit <http://health.state.tn.us/ceds/notifiable.htm> for specific details on the list of diseases & conditions that are reportable in the State of Tennessee. Individual providers are not eligible for Meaningful Use funding for sending reportable laboratory results electronically.
- b. **To learn more:** Contact TDOH CEDS (615) 741-7247.

3. Any hospital or vendor representing a hospital interested in sending reportable laboratory results electronically to the State of TN, including ELR activities for CMS Meaningful Use Funding

- a. ***If you are an interested Hospital not currently participating in a Health Information Exchange:*** Hospitals not currently apart of a Health Information Exchange (HIE), or Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), may choose to send laboratory result reports directly to the Department of Health from the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) or Laboratory Information System (LIS).
- b. ***If you are an interested Hospital belonging to a Health Information Exchange:*** Hospitals belonging to a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) or other community HEI, may choose to send laboratory result reports to the Department of Health from the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) or Laboratory Information System (LIS) either directly or through their local HIE. If the HIE or RHIO participates in Health Information Partnership-Tennessee (HIP-TN) HIE, then the hospital may also choose to send their ELR through HIP-TN to the Department of Health when that function is enabled by HIP-TN.
- c. ***If you are a Hospital or vendor representing hospitals interested in electronic data exchange and eligible for CMS “Meaningful Use” funding:*** Hospitals, either participating in an HIE, or not, may choose to send to the Department of Health laboratory result reports, which is one of the Meaningful Use Stage 1 Public Health Options. The hospital must have a certified system. Laboratory result reports can be generated and sent from either your Electronic Medical Record (EMR) or Laboratory Information System (LIS).
- d. ***What is reportable:*** Reports of laboratory results indicating diseases declared to be communicable and/or dangerous to the public are to be reported to the TN Department of Health. Please visit <http://health.state.tn.us/ceds/notifiable.htm> for specific details on the list of diseases that are reportable in the State of Tennessee.
- e. ***What will be sent and how:*** Those reporting can send electronic laboratory result reports (ELR) messages following the HL7 2.5.1 ELR Implementation Guide for Public Health Reporting to the Tennessee Department of Health. Messages can be sent via several different transport methods and will be determined during testing.
- f. ***To learn more:*** To contact TDOH CEDS Surveillance and Epidemiology program about ELR activities call (615) 741-3570 or email Erin.Holt@tn.gov or for Meaningful Use Activities call (615) 741-3702 or email John.A.Roberts@tn.gov .