

Clinical Laboratory Integration into Healthcare Collaborative (CLIHC)TM

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) convened seven Institutes from 1984 to 2007 on critical issues in clinical laboratory practice (<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/dls/institutes/>). These institutes brought national and international experts together to focus on the role of the clinical laboratory in providing quality testing services for improved patient outcomes. The Clinical Laboratory Integration into Healthcare Collaborative (CLIHC)TM, established by CDC's Division of Laboratory Science and Standards (DLSS), is addressing some of the recommendations from the past institutes by focusing on important "gaps" that must be filled to optimize the ability of practicing clinicians to effectively utilize laboratory services for better patient care.

CLIHCTM SUBGROUPS

Collaborative workgroups and their primary activities are listed below:

Co-Lead:

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Diagnostic Algorithms

- Publish diagnostic algorithms for challenging clinical scenarios to demonstrate the complexity of choosing the most appropriate test(s) to support an accurate diagnosis and treatment
- Develop information technology tools using decision support algorithms to help clinicians choose appropriate tests and improve patient outcomes

Nomenclature

- Publish articles that demonstrate laboratory test nomenclature variation and complexity associated with commonly ordered laboratory tests
- Explore novel solutions to clinician test selection challenges associated with test nomenclature variation and complexity

Survey of Clinicians' Challenges in Laboratory Test Selection and Result Interpretation

- On the basis of physician focus groups' feedback, develop and conduct a national survey of family practitioners and internal medicine physicians to determine their challenges for appropriate laboratory test selection and result interpretation
- Formulate strategies to assist clinicians with test selection and interpretation challenges

Physician Education

- Conduct site visits to observe, assess, and report on the nature and amount of education for clinical consultation provided in U.S. pathology residency programs
- Survey U.S. medical schools to identify the gaps in curricula for education in selection and interpretation of laboratory tests

Organizational Collaborations

- Identify partners/collaborators with similar initiatives and interests to promote, expand and sustain CLIHCTM initiatives
- Form communication channels with partners/collaborators about CLIHCTM initiatives through hosted webinars, scripted phone calls, email communications, in-person meetings, and/or professional meetings