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ACLA Releases Draft IT Framework to Facilitate Lab Interface, Reduce Costs and Decrease Error Rates

Washington, DC – On January 4, 2010, the American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) published an initial version of a Laboratory Test Compendium Framework designed to facilitate and standardize downloads of electronic laboratory directories of service (eDOS) into electronic health record (EHR) systems. This effort fills a gap in the current electronic data exchange environment, and will enable the reduction of costs for providers, laboratories and vendors while further supporting meaningful use of EHRs.

The Laboratory Test Compendium Framework establishes a standard format for delivery of test compendium data elements that differ from laboratory to laboratory, including but not limited to order codes, test descriptions, and specimen requirements. Use of the Framework will support the initial Laboratory Test Compendium for each customer as well as on-going maintenance updates throughout the life of the interface, regardless of the laboratory or EHR system used. The laboratory, in coordination with the client, will determine if a complete DOS or a subset based on the provider's ordering history is appropriate for the provider's specific interface implementation.

The current public comment period will remain open for 60 days through March 5, 2010. Once the specification is complete and all comments and suggestions have been considered, ACLA intends to reach out to the HL7 Standards Committee with the intent to transfer the Laboratory Test Compendium Framework to that entity.

ACLA is a Washington, DC-based non-profit association representing the leading national, regional, and local clinical laboratories.

For more information, go to <http://www.clinical-labs.org/issues/technology/edos.shtml>

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