

OLIS Benefits

A laboratory information system for Ontario is an important component of electronic health records. The ability to electronically share test information helps health care providers make faster, better patient care decisions.

Patient Benefits

- Ensures fewer gaps in patient information as patients move between hospital, practitioner's office (e.g., family physicians, specialists), home care and long-term care settings
- Reduces the number of unnecessary laboratory tests due to greater availability and sharing of information
- Enables timelier and broader access to laboratory test results by practitioners

Health Service Provider Benefits

- Enables timely access to information for decision-making at the point of care
- Facilitates more comprehensive and complete laboratory test information as produced by laboratories outside their organization
- Provides better coordination of care between practitioners and within health care teams
- Improves workflow and reduces the dependency on paper-based systems

Other Benefits of OLIS

- Provides another source of audit information to facilitate patient requests for information
- Offers future online ordering capability and up front patient identification validation and requisition validation to reduce errors

Laboratory Benefits

- Leverages OLIS to remove the need for multiple customized point to point system interfaces:
 - Eliminates costs associated with customizing, implementing and maintaining separate interfaces
 - Reduces resourcing requirements (i.e., building and maintaining in house expertise with diverse skill sets)
 - Pinpoints focus on core lab services and less on technology and infrastructure needs
 - Enables easier and timely communication and electronic transmission of clinical lab information between organizations
- Eliminates inefficiencies, delays and costs associated with paper reports
- Provides a more secure delivery method than telephoning, faxing, mailing and couriering paper reports
- Promotes a common standard for reporting laboratory test results
 - Reduces potential errors in interpretation, translation or transcription
 - Conforms with the current provincial standard for electronic transmission of lab information in Ontario