



Ontario Laboratories Information System

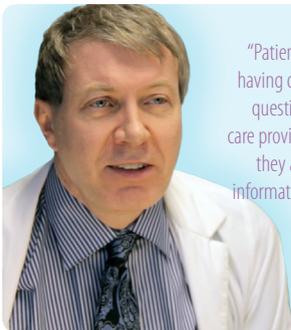


eHealth Ontario is leading the implementation of the Ontario laboratories information system (OLIS) across the province as part of its ehealth strategy. OLIS is an information system that connects hospitals, community laboratories, public health laboratories and practitioners to facilitate the secure electronic exchange of laboratory test orders and results.

As a province-wide, integrated repository of tests and results, OLIS contributes to fundamental improvements in patient care by providing practitioners with timely access to information that is needed at the time of clinical decision making. OLIS is one component of the overall provincial strategy to improve chronic disease management and patient care in Ontario.

Benefits

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



"Patients are going to notice that they are not having duplicate tests or being asked the same questions over and over again, and that their care providers are more confident about the care they are delivering because they have better information and are more comfortable with the decisions they are making."

Dr. Glen Geiger
The Ottawa Hospital

"It's reassuring for me as a type 1 diabetic that anywhere in the province I go, my health care team has access to my records with the click of a mouse. No more extra testing, no more frustrating, confusing processes that have to take place. Now there's a central hub of a computer system that can be plugged into by the entire health care team." — **Steve Stresman**

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
- ✓ Provides an effective tool to integrate and track patient laboratory history over time, monitor progress of treatments and support improved chronic disease management
- ✓ 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 improved decision making at the point of care
- ✓ Facilitates more comprehensive and complete laboratory test information
- ✓ Provides better coordination of care between multiple practitioners and within health care teams
- ✓ Improves workflow and reduces the dependency on paper-based systems

Accomplishments

The first phase of OLIS, the foundation adopters program, connected seven foundation adopters – four hospitals (Grey Bruce Health Services, Trillium Health Centre, Lakeridge Health Corporation, and University Health Network), representing 23 hospital sites, and three community laboratories (CML HealthCare Inc., Gamma Dynacare Medical Laboratories, and LifeLabs LP).

OLIS has also initiated connections with Alpha Labs and Bio Test Laboratories and is currently receiving their data. Together, OLIS is receiving 96% of community laboratory test data represented by these connections. eHealth Ontario is also connected to Public Health Ontario.

Together, all of the organizations contributing data into OLIS represent over 84% of the annual provincial laboratory test volumes.

In partnership with OntarioMD, eHealth Ontario has certified 12 electronic medical record (EMR) vendors for access to OLIS data for clinical use. The vendors have completed conformance testing and are in the process of making OLIS data available to their customers through their certified EMRs. Thus far, 9,592 clinicians are engaged in OLIS implementation, of which, 9,030 are successfully connected to OLIS.

Health care organizations can currently access OLIS via an OntarioMD certified EMR or a regional solution viewer for the purposes of clinical care. Organizations that do not qualify for either of these channels may qualify for OLIS access via our web application, eHealth Services (Lab).

All of the initiatives listed above have resulted in approximately 100,000 registered health practitioners having access to OLIS data in support of improved patient care.

OLIS has also made technology infrastructure enhancements to improve its operational availability.

In July 2015, OLIS initiated its first instance of an electronic Ordering (eOrdering) solution via the Alpha laboratories pilot project. The lessons learned from this pilot project will inform future electronic ordering initiatives across the province.

Next steps

eHealth Ontario will continue to work with laboratories across the province on the planning and implementing activities for collecting OLIS data. Having completed connections with most of the GTA area hospitals, the South West LHIN and the North East LHIN, efforts are now focused on the completion of South West Ontario, North West Ontario and Eastern Ontario.

eHealth Ontario will also continue to focus on the planning and implementation activities for expanding viewing capabilities of OLIS data across the province through the regional viewing solutions.

The OLIS program will continue deploying OLIS data to clinicians via EMRs and existing hospital viewers.



eHealth Ontario
It's working for you.

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