

**MedLIS  
June 2016**

## The National MedLIS Project- What is it?

The MedLIS project will create a national electronic laboratory record for patients by designing, building and implementing a standard national laboratory information system in every HSE funded laboratory in the country. In addition, the project will enable electronic ordering of tests for both hospitals and GP practices. The MedLIS system will have a single national database with each patient having a unique laboratory identifier in the database. Access to this national database will be restricted to health care providers having a legitimate reason and all access will be fully auditable, in accordance with data protection guidelines.

The strategic goal for the MedLIS Project is to “ensure patient’s healthcare providers have user friendly 24-hour access to complete and up-to-date accurate laboratory electronic records across all sites”



### GP & Patient Benefits

- Complete national record
- Faster result turnaround time
- Critical result call back notification and result acknowledgement
- Verification that tests ordered do have results returned
- Sample collection guidance at time of ordering
- Demand management, duplicate checking and order statuses available
- All lab patient results available regardless of where order was placed.
- Hospital lab results available for GPs to access.
- Positive Patient ID
- Remote access to results

## When will this happen?

The pilot sites are due to go-live in December 2016; these are St James, Portlaoise and Tullamore with the Mater, Beaumont, Connolly, Mullingar and Cavan Hospitals following in February 2017. The rest of the labs will roll out in a further 4 phases, approximately every six months. We roll out the solution to GPs in line with the hospital rollout. So, if you are in a practice who uses the laboratory at St James Hospital, your go live date will be December 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. You will be contacted well before any go live date. A full list of Roll out dates are available on the the eHealth website.

***“Every result on a patient, irrespective of where the test was performed, and where the health care provider is, will be viewable.”***

## Why do we need to change?

Patients' laboratory data is mostly confined to the laboratory where the test was carried out. We need to ensure secure access to this data so health care providers have the latest results available to them and so patients won't have to have tests repeated unnecessarily.

As we are all too aware on a daily basis, our lab systems do not facilitate electronic patient result queries for clinicians across hospitals.

Laboratories would also like to be able to provide real time advice on the appropriateness of tests e.g. “ How frequently does my patient need Vitamin D levels?”, “What are the current serological assays used to diagnose Coeliac disease? , “When should I request ANA?”

The national Clinical Pathology Programme has developed guidelines for test usage and MedLIS will incorporate these into the new system.

## What will this mean to you?

Many of our hospitals and GP Practices currently send handwritten paper requests and samples to their local laboratories. Patient Identification Data has to be re-entered manually and this is a well known risk. Laboratories will be unable to sustain this after go live. The MedLIS system will allow for all samples to be electronically ordered and samples taken in the GP practice should also arrive in the lab with the printed bar-coded label on the specimen. **We know that this will be a big change and want to make the system as easy to use as possible.** We are working hard with Cerner, GP Practice System Vendors, Healthlink and users to make this happen. We will provide printers and training. All results will be reported electronically to the requesting clinician or GP thus eliminating the need for paper reports in most instances. You will continue to receive test results through Healthlink. The project has also acquired a logistics and courier module that can be used to facilitate sample collections and practice supplies.

Local Implementation Groups with GP representatives have been set up in all phase 1 hospitals. Contact your local laboratory manager or project members-see below-who can tell you who your GP representative is and how your practice can become involved in piloting and testing this exciting national project.

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