



JUL 24 2015

Burton W. Wilcke, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chairperson  
Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC)  
2877 Brandywine Road  
Williams Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 2716  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Dr. Wilcke:

Thank you for the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) recommendations on advancing a more connected, interoperable health information technology (HIT) infrastructure. Secretary Burwell asked that I respond directly to you on her behalf. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recognizes CLIAC's important role in advising us on technological advances affecting clinical laboratory quality and laboratory medicine, and on issues related to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1998. I believe collaborative and structured action will be important in advancing the interoperability of clinical laboratory data. I will discuss your recommendations with the HHS agencies you have identified in your letter, and will follow up accordingly.

I understand that the Committee is highly interested in the need for laboratory data interoperability as a way to provide patient-centered health care, reduce care delivery costs, identify best practices, and support public health. Please accept my personal thanks for your continued collaboration. I welcome your input and feedback on additional ways to successfully propose a framework for achieving safe and effective laboratory interoperability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. Wakefield".

Mary K. Wakefield  
Acting Deputy Secretary