



JUN 15 2016

Burton W. Wilcke Jr., PhD
Chairperson
Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee
2877 Brandywine Road
Williams Building, Floor 2, Room 2716
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Dr. Wilcke:

Thank you for the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee's (CLIAC) recommendations to advance a more connected, interoperable health information technology infrastructure. Secretary Burwell asked that I respond directly to you on her behalf.

The Department of Health and Human Services recognizes that the interoperability of laboratory data is a key component of providing patient-centered health care, reducing care delivery costs, and supporting public health. Organized action will be important in advancing the interoperability of laboratory data.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) continues to work towards establishing widespread electronic laboratory interoperability. ONC recently launched a funding opportunity around Laboratory data exchange known as the Lab US Realm Project. Please visit the following link: <http://wiki.siframework.org/Lab+US+Realm+Pilot+Project>. The Lab US Realm Project is accepting proposals until June 20, 2016 that focus on production of cost-savings studies that can be used to promote the adoption of the suite of Lab US Realm Implementation Guides (HL7). ONC also has two other funding opportunities, High Impact Pilots and the Standards Exploration Awards. They are intended to support health IT standards testing and implementation, building on federal and private efforts to ensure health information can flow where it is needed.

ONC has been supporting standards and implementation guides (IGs) central to the Electronic Health Record-Lab Interoperability and Connectivity Specification. In particular, ONC continues to support efforts for the refinement and adoption of the Health Level Seven (HL7) Laboratory Orders Interface, HL7 Laboratory Results Interface, and HL7 Electronic Directory of Services IGs. These IGs are identified in ONC's 2016 Interoperability Standards Advisory (see <https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/2016-interoperability-standards-advisory-final-508.pdf>) and continue to be considered for the ONC Health IT Certification Program to complement the use of other standards that support lab interoperability such as Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes. Further, consistent with CLIAC's recommendations, we have recently appointed a pathologist who is also a medical informatician to the Health IT Standards Committee. ONC will consider a similar appointment to the Health IT Policy Committee during the next nomination cycle.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for serving as a CLIAC member for the past four years, and as Chairperson for the past three. We welcome any additional comments or suggestions CLIAC may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Wakefield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.
Acting Deputy Secretary