

# LABORATORY MEDICINE *Best Practices*



## Laboratory Medicine Best Practices Initiative Request for Unpublished Quality Improvement Practice Information

The Laboratory Medicine Best Practices (LMBP™) Initiative is seeking laboratories and healthcare organizations to share unpublished quality improvement practice assessments for its new evidence reviews. Before submitting the requested de-identified information, potential submitters should first consult with their organization's designated officials and/or Institutional Review Board chair concerning required approvals and clearances. The information provided here is intended to assist with obtaining any required approvals.

### Background and Purpose

The overall purpose of this work is to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Laboratory Science and Standards (DLSS) efforts to improve the quality of laboratory medicine by promoting the use of effective, evidence-based practices. To this end, CDC with the assistance of its contractor Battelle is conducting systematic evidence reviews using transparent methods to evaluate and identify practices that improve healthcare quality outcomes consistent with the Institute of Medicine's aims (safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered). More information about the LMBP Initiative and its methods published in *Clinical Chemistry*<sup>1</sup> is available at its website ([www.futurelabmedicine.org](http://www.futurelabmedicine.org)).

The LMBP Initiative has three major quality improvement goals for laboratory testing services used in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and management of disease:

- Improve patient safety and healthcare outcomes;
- Reduce redundancy and waste;
- Provide tools to improve laboratory service quality to clinicians and patients.

### Quality Improvement Topics/Practices

The LMBP™ Initiative selects important quality issues or topic areas affecting patient care outcomes and evaluates practices for addressing these issues using available evidence. To evaluate candidate practices, LMBP methods rely on published findings as well as results from unpublished quality improvement projects. Past topics have included accurate patient specimen identification, timely and accurate communication of critical value test results, and reducing blood culture contamination and hemolyzed specimens.

<sup>1</sup> Christenson R et al. 2011. Laboratory Medicine Best Practices: Systematic Evidence Review and Evaluation Methods for Quality Improvement. *Clinical Chemistry* 57: 816-825.

### What is the LMBP™ Seeking?

The LMBP™ Initiative is seeking quality improvement assessments, reports, conference presentations and other data summaries that report on practice-related outcomes. This type of information may constitute relevant unpublished evidence, and can include quasi-experimental and observational studies, monitoring/surveillance of error rates or other objective outcomes, case studies, failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA), Six Sigma, LEAN, continuous quality improvement (CQI), and other “in-house” studies.

The information requested includes:

- Descriptive information about practices (e.g., how long they have been in use, who is involved in implementation)
- Assessment of practice impacts/outcomes based on data
- Any information about the costs of implementing and maintaining these practices

The specific information requested is available in a 1-page printable data submission form with instructions at <https://www.futurelabmedicine.org/pdfs/LMBPQIProjectStudySummaryForm.doc>

***NO personal or patient-identifiable information should be provided.  
The LMBP Initiative is ONLY seeking de-identified data and/or data summaries.***

Based on the LMBP’s experience, IRBs generally find the type of information requested does not qualify as Human Subjects Research because it does not involve participation of or information from human subjects and it is not individually identifiable. As such, it may be determined that it does not need to be reviewed by the IRB.

### How the Evidence Will Be Used

The only intended use of the evidence obtained is for producing quality improvement practice evidence reviews and corresponding evidence-based recommendations. The primary focus of these reviews, recommendations, and the LMBP™ systematic review methods used to produce them is the assessment of the effectiveness, harms and benefits of subject practices based on identifiable and measurable quality improvement outcomes. Recommendations may also include implementation-related information.

Information on quality improvement topics and the corresponding practices the LMBP is seeking information on for evidence reviews is available at.

[https://www.futurelabmedicine.org/get\\_involved/data\\_submission/](https://www.futurelabmedicine.org/get_involved/data_submission/)