

# 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 a cornerstone 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 will contribute 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 diabetes management 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.

### 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 chronic disease management (e.g. diabetes)
- 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 decision-making at the point of care
- Facilitates more comprehensive and complete laboratory test information as produced by laboratories outside of their organization
- Provides better coordination of care between multiple practitioners and within health care teams
- Improves workflow and reduces the dependency on paper-based systems

## Fact Sheet

### Progress to date

The first phase of OLIS, the Foundation Adopters Program, is nearing completion. The program connected eight foundation adopters – four hospitals and four community laboratories. The four hospitals are: Grey Bruce Health Services; Trillium Health Centre; Lakeridge Health Corporation; and University Health Network. Together, these organizations represent 23 hospital sites. The four community laboratories are: CML HealthCare Inc.; Gamma Dynacare Medical Laboratories; InterCountry; and LifeLabs LP.

Through the ConnectingGTA project, four additional hospital organizations in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) have begun feeding laboratory data into OLIS. The hospitals connected through this project are: North York General Hospital; Southlake Regional Health Centre; St. Michael's Hospital; and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Mount Sinai Hospital is also expected to connect to OLIS in the near future as part of the ConnectingGTA project.

Together, these organizations represent 59% of the annual provincial laboratory's test volumes. OLIS has over 821 million results for approximately 8.8 million Ontarians in the OLIS database.

Implementation is underway to integrate the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) laboratory information system for the purpose of submitting public health laboratory data into OLIS. The Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Program has conducted a number of pilots to assess OLIS for a clinical use by primary care practitioners. With assistance from OntarioMD – which works on behalf of physicians to leverage information technology (IT) to meet the growing needs of patients and physicians – work is well underway to certify EMR vendors for access to OLIS for clinical use. The first clinical use of OLIS data is now fully operational at The Ottawa Hospital.

Planned rollout of OLIS functionality in EMR products is in progress and will provide practitioners with access to OLIS clinical data within community practitioner offices.

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



### Next steps

eHealth Ontario will focus on planning the deployment for the remaining hospitals and labs as well as continue the implementation activities for the integration of OLIS into public health laboratories.

The next phase of the ConnectingGTA project will focus on the implementation activities required to feed laboratory data into OLIS from another seven hospital organizations in the GTA. As well, the ConnectingGTA project has initiated activities to provide a group of health service providers with view access to OLIS data for clinical use across the GTA LHINs.

Planning and implementation projects are also underway with Alpha Laboratories, the North East LHIN, the North West LHIN, as well as in the South West LHIN with London Health Sciences Centre.