



## Benefits of Standards

The California Clinical Data Project has developed statewide clinical data exchange standards to improve efficiency, lower costs, and help reduce medical errors by providing automated data feeds into data warehouses and disease registries. These standards are now being implemented by many organizations. Widespread use across California of the two new uniform laboratory and pharmacy data standards, agreed upon rules of exchange, and software to ensure compliance will benefit a range of stakeholders. The benefits of standards for each stakeholder group are noted below.

### Provider Organizations

- Standardized and timely pharmacy utilization and lab results data will help provider organizations self-report Pay for Performance clinical measures and increase the likelihood of substantial quality incentives.
- Provider organizations with limited resources will find it easier to integrate clinical data and devote more resources to health and quality improvement efforts such as disease management and disease registry development.
- Better access to clinical data will help provider organizations target the sickest patients for treatment and follow-up care.

### Health Plans

- Plans will be able to support only a single pharmacy data exchange standard.
- Support in the form of pharmacy data validation software, toolkits, and technical advisors will be made available to provider organizations requesting pharmacy data, helping to minimize provider group requests for assistance from health plans.
- Plans will find it easier to acquire lab data from lab providers and/or provider organizations serving their members.

### Laboratories

- Labs will be able to support only a single laboratory results data exchange standard. Currently, many provider organizations request a format from their lab partners and those labs must code and support each format.
- Additional support (laboratory data validation and conversion tools as well as technical advisors) will be made available to organizations requesting data, which will help minimize provider organization requests for assistance from labs.
- The lab data exchange standard complies with HL7 and HIPAA transaction standards.

## **Hospital Systems**

- Hospitals will be able to support only a single laboratory data exchange standard. Currently, many provider organizations request a non-standard format from their hospital partners and hospitals must code and support each format.
- Additional support (laboratory data validation and conversion tools as well as technical advisors) will be made available to organizations requesting data, which will help minimize provider organization requests for assistance from hospitals.
- The lab data exchange standard complies with HL7 and HIPAA transaction standards.

## **Clinics**

- Better access to prescription fill records will allow clinic providers to have more complete medication histories for patients they treat.
- Clinics with in-house labs could exchange lab data using a single standard and provide these results to entities with whom they contract.

## **State Government**

- Standards could help state government receive clinical pharmacy and lab data from Medi-Cal managed care health plans. This would provide the state government with a more comprehensive medical history for Medi-Cal patients.

## **Purchasers**

- Purchasers will have greater capability to construct or use performance-based metrics (HEDIS, Pay for Performance, etc.) to select health care providers for their employees based on quality outcomes.
- Better access to timely clinical data means providers can build their own quality improvement or outreach programs tailored specifically to the needs of their employees.

## **Patients**

- Patients will benefit from their clinician's access to timely, essential health care information. Clinicians will be able to rely less on the patient's recollection of test results or prescription histories.
- Accurate and timely information will improve disease management programs and allow for targeted interventions to those most in need. Better access to data will also prevent adverse medical events (such as drug interactions).