

# California Clinical Data Project: Setting Standards

## CALINX Laboratory Data Standard (Version 1.1) Rules of Exchange

### Background

The California Clinical Data Project: Setting Standards has specified a data standard to share lab data among clinical laboratories, provider organizations, and health plans. The goals of this standard are to facilitate clinical evaluation, disease and utilization management and improve patient care.

The standard is based on previous work of the California Information Exchange (CALINX) project, and is, therefore, called the CALINX Laboratory Data Standard. The standard is based on industry review of the HL7 standard and provides additional format specifications that facilitate the exchange of lab results data. The industry review included laboratory, provider organization, health plan, and vendor participation. The standard is based on the HL7 messaging format, version 2.4.

### Frequency and Lag Time

Within 90 days of signing CALINX Lab Endorsement Statement, senders of batched laboratory-result files will make these files available in the CALINX Laboratory Data Standard per the following Rules of Exchange:

- **Reporting Periods:** Data formatted per the standard will be reported by clinical laboratories to contracting organizations at monthly (30-day) reporting periods, with the following exceptions: The reporting periods may be longer than one month if recipients specifically request longer reporting periods (for example, quarterly). The reporting periods may be shorter than one month if a recipient requests and clinical laboratory agrees to send data more frequently. The service dates of all reported tests should fall within the reporting period. It is recognized that, in the minority of cases, factors beyond the control of clinical laboratories and provider organizations will result in the delay of reporting certain tests. Every effort will be jointly made by clinical laboratories and provider organizations to minimize these delays.
- **Reporting Lag Time:** The lag time for the reporting of batched results by clinical laboratories to contracting organizations should not be longer than 30 days from the last date of the reporting period (i.e., the data collected during a reporting period should be reported within 30 days of that period's end).

- **Service Dates:** For purposes of determining reporting periods and lag times, the service dates of laboratory tests will be based on values of the OBR-7 Field (Observation Date/Time) in the standard message format.

### **Data Accuracy and Completeness**

The data reported to an organization from a clinical laboratory in the CALINX Laboratory Data Standard are expected to reflect accurately the laboratory test results for that organization's patient and physician populations during the reporting period. Although it may not be possible to populate all *required* fields in these data files, every reasonable effort will be made by the clinical laboratories to populate these fields and every reasonable effort will be made by provider organizations to assist clinical laboratories to populate these fields.