



## **ELR Technical Assistance**

In the 2011 ELC ACA FOA, a major emphasis was placed on facilitating implementation of Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR). In addition to the cooperative agreement awards, CDC is making available ELR Technical Assistance (ELR TA) to further advance the implementation of ELR to public health departments.

ELR TA will be delivered in the form of skilled personnel to work on well-defined projects of short duration, on-site or remotely, at the health department or at the laboratory. The following are some examples, not an exhaustive list, of the types of projects ELR TA will be able to assist laboratories and public health departments with.

- Mapping local codes to standard vocabulary (e.g., LOINC® and SNOMED)
- Facilitating secure transport of Electronic Laboratory Reports
- Routing, processing, and transforming ELRs so they may be used by surveillance information systems
- Recommendations for improvements to current ELR infrastructure and ELR implementation plans
- Knowledge transfer to personnel on the use of integration engine(s) (e.g., Rhapsody, Biztalk) to enhance in-house ELR capabilities
- Writing policy and protocol documents for use by partners planning to implement ELR
- HL7 message construction and validation in the context of ELR

### **Submitting ELR TA Project Requests**

ELR TA is requested by the public health department filling out a one page form and sending it to [elr@cdc.gov](mailto:elr@cdc.gov). Jurisdictions proposing multiple projects should fill out a separate form for each one.

Requests will be accepted in an ongoing basis and reviewed as they are received.

### **Review and Evaluation of Requests**

Once an ELR TA request is received, it will be reviewed by the CDC team. CDC may contact the jurisdiction for additional information or to clarify the request. Once all information has been received, the request will be evaluated using the following requirements and criteria:

- Requirements:
  - Promotes ELR implementation based on outlined goals and objectives of the request
  - Well defined and complete, including listing specific tasks
  - Relatively short in duration (1-4 weeks)
- Evaluation
  - Enables ELR from the public health lab to the public health agency
  - Brings new, high volume ELR into the health department
  - Enables the use (consumption by a surveillance system) of a high volume of ELRs (e.g., through routing, transforming, testing, or other types of processing)
  - Enables broader adoption of ELR in jurisdiction, i.e., it does not directly implement ELR, but is a necessary step toward advancing ELR in the jurisdiction
  - Can be leveraged by other jurisdictions or can be done in conjunction with requests from other jurisdictions
  - Leverages work already done for other jurisdictions

Reviewed and prioritized projects that qualify for ELR TA based on the evaluation criteria will be provided to APHL's (Association of Public Health Laboratories) Technical Assistance delivery team. APHL will work with the jurisdiction to assess the details of the project and use that information to determine the skills needed, match skills to resource availability and schedule the work to be done.