

# Introduction to Laboratory Informatics: Life of a Result

## Life of a Result Outside of the Laboratory

Once data and reports are finalized inside the laboratory, they can be sent to stakeholders outside the laboratory.

Some examples of where data may be sent include electronic health records, vital records and disease registries.

These data will follow at least one of two distinct paths.

The first path is the clinical path.

In this path, data are sent to healthcare providers, hospitals, and/or laboratories to inform patient diagnosis and care, including treatment.

The second path data can follow is the surveillance path.

In this path, data are sent to local and state health departments, public health organizations and possibly the CDC for the ongoing collection and analysis of health-related data essential to the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health practice.