



Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

To: Chief Executive Officers
PA Hospitals and Health Systems

From: Joseph Martin, Executive Director
PA Health Care Cost Containment Council

Date: May 16, 2011

Subject: IMPORTANT - PHC4 Update on Laboratory Data Collection Process

I want to thank you for your cooperation as we move through this transition, from the previous single vendor approach, of collecting laboratory data. The first quarter of data due under this new approach is the period including discharges beginning January 1, 2011 through March 30, 2011 – this data is due to PHC4 no later than June 30, 2011.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the various options, including several that do not require vendor assistance, available to you for submitting the required data.

- 1) **PHC4 now has a free online tool that is available on PHC4's portal for hospitals required to submit laboratory data.** Hospitals will see a link called "Laboratory Data Administration" when they logon to the portal.
 - a. This Web-based tool allows for manual data entry of laboratory test records, and is well-suited for hospitals submitting smaller numbers of laboratory records.
 - b. The tool is intuitive and designed to be easy-to-use. However, if any hospital staff are interested in a demonstration of this online tool, they can contact Michele Arnold in PHC4's Information Services department at (717) 232-8958 and we would be happy to schedule something.
- 2) Hospitals can develop their own system for submission as long as the data specifications are met. **We are also aware that a number of hospitals are using their existing IT systems, for example, Meditech or Cerner, to incorporate their laboratory and billing data and generate the laboratory data file for submission.**

- 3) Hospitals can also use Microsoft Access to manually input laboratory data and export the fixed-width delimited flat text file for submission to PHC4. Instructions to do this are located at <https://www.phc4submit.org/LabDataReporting.aspx>
- 4) There are two qualifying vendors – Quantros and Sunquest – who can handle the lab submission for you if you wish to go in that direction. You are not required to use these vendors as long as the data specifications are met; you can use any vendor of your choice. The contact information for Quantros and Sunquest is:

Quantros, Inc. – Contact Person: John Langer, MBA Account Representative

Phone: 408-514-4919 Email: jlanger@quantros.com

Sunquest Information Systems, Inc. – Contact Person: Tim Pomeroy Sales Account Manager, PA

Phone: 520-570-2827 Email: tim.pomeroy@sunquestinfo.com

As a reminder the data manual which contains the specifications for submission can be found at <http://www.phc4.org/dept/dc/docs/LaboratoryDataReportingManual.pdf>

Again, while PHC4 began accepting this data as of April 1, 2011, I want to emphasize that it is not due to PHC4 until June 30, 2011.

Again, we thank you for your continued cooperation during this important transition and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or would like more information.

Thank you.