



Public Health Reports Supplement: Laboratory System Improvements

APHL announces the release of the electronic version of the APHL/CDC-sponsored Public Health Reports Supplement.

The 14 editorials, commentaries and manuscripts focus on public health laboratory systems improvements and research. The supplement will be mailed to members in the coming weeks

[View the electronic version.](#)



Current L-SIP Map

The colored city and states in the map represent the 29 states and one local public health laboratory system that have convened an L-SIP assessment, as well as one state that completed an L-SIP reassessment. If your laboratory has not completed an assessment, and you are interested in learning more about L-SIP and how to get your laboratory system partners connected through convening an L-SIP assessment, join your colleagues for the Fall 2013 technical assistance calls. States that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to join New Hampshire and conduct a reassessment to document the impact of previous changes and to assess where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment.

For More Information

Please visit the [L-SIP site on www.aphl.org](#).

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Save the Date: Quality Improvement Forum Call on ISO 15189

Are you interested in learning more about ISO 15189? Dr. Robert Rej, director of Clinical Chemistry and Hematology at the Wadsworth Center for Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health, will present the major features of the third edition (15189:2012) and highlight areas where it differs substantially from earlier editions. The call will be held Wednesday, September 11, 2:00–3:00 pm (EDT). Please use bridge number 877.485.1403 , passcode 3709718.

Quality Improvement Forum Update

The Quality Improvement Forum (QIF) has met via teleconference bimonthly since the August 2011 in-person meeting. Each call consists of a structured training or learning component and “open mic” time for sharing of quality improvement activities or obtaining of information from your peers. The learning component of the calls has been focused on the sharing of quality improvement activities in state systems, including post-L-SIP assessment activities.

In July 2013, Lorelei Kurimski from the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa provided an overview of these topics as well as examples of the key activities needed to sustain and manage your plan. In addition the presentation will also cover how to maintain dynamic functionality, and how to incorporate Lean, Malcolm Baldrige and L-SIP. Her presentation was entitled [“Strategic Planning: An Integrated Approach.”](#) Her presentation may be accessed from the APHL Member Resource Center (MRC) by using the search keywords “Lorelei Kurimski.”

If you would like to present on a quality improvement activity occurring in your laboratory, or would like to join the group either as

a participant on the calls and/or to be part of one of the workgroups, contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org to be added to the distribution list.

L-SIP Recruitment

Recruitment for state or local laboratories interested in hosting an L-SIP assessment in Winter 2013 or Spring 2014 has begun. Public health laboratories that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to conduct a reassessment to assess the impact of previous changes and to document where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment.

These calls offer APHL members planning an L-SIP assessment a chance to learn more about the assessment and the logistics of planning for one. They are also an opportunity for the assessment coordinators, facilitators and theme takers to ask any questions they have about their roles and responsibilities.

Technical assistance calls for Fall 2013 will be held on the following dates/times. Please use bridge number 877.485.1403 , passcode 3709718.

Thursday, September 26, 1:00 pm ET

Topics covered: overview of L-SIP, resources available to members, process for preparing for an assessment

Wednesday, October 9, 1:00 pm ET

Topics covered: identification of stakeholders to invite to an L-SIP assessment, details about facilitators and theme takers, materials to include the participant packet

Wednesday, October 23, 1:00 pm ET

Topics covered: assessment evaluation, examples of post-assessment quality improvement activities

Once your state/local public health laboratory system has committed to conducting an assessment, APHL will provide a mentor, a representative from a state/local laboratory that has previously conducted an L-SIP assessment to offer guidance. The mentor will serve as a resource and can answer questions related to preparing for an assessment. Additionally, mini grants are available to assist in offsetting expenses. To receive information about the process, financial support and technical assistance, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

Quality Assurance Listserv

Representatives from all United States member laboratories are invited to sign up to participate on the Quality Assurance Listserv. This member benefit is a forum for your quality-related questions to

your peers and the sharing of possible solutions and lessons learned. Recent topics include discussions about in-house media preparation and assurance of available isolates for confirmatory and molecular testing. To join in on the conversation or view an archive of previous listserv postings, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

What's New in APHL's Member Resource Center?

The following is a list of resources that have been recently uploaded to the [Member Resource Center \(MRC\)](#).

- The Michigan Laboratory System Advisory Group (LSAG), a result of Michigan's 2009 L-SIP assessment, held its "Promoting the Value of the Michigan Laboratory System" meeting on Monday, May 6, 2013. The purpose of this meeting was to improve the visibility of the laboratory system to the general public and to partner to influence policy. In order to accomplish these goals, partners and stakeholders assisted in the creation of at least one short podcast documenting the inherent value of the work performed by the Michigan Laboratory System. Six podcasts were uploaded to the MRC and can be viewed using QuickTime or RealPlayer. Search keyword "podcast."
- Dr. Wanda Reiter-Kintz, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the State Hygienic Laboratory of the University of Iowa, presents guidelines she follows when writing after action reports and improvement plans. The "[Guidelines for Writing After Action Reports and Improvement Plans](#)" are a modified version of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) template that includes the following: a cover page, handling instructions, table of contents, executive summary, exercise overview, exercise summary, analysis of capabilities and recommendations for improvement, conclusion, and appendices.

The MRC is only as strong as the quality of the submitted resources, so please continue to submit resources to the MRC. For more information or assistance accessing the MRC, please email Deborah Kim, APHL's Institutional Research director, at deborah.kim@aphl.org.

Articles of Interest

April 2013 issue of *Quality Management Journal*

- [A Framework for Leading the Transformation to Performance Excellence Part I](#)

Quality Management Journal

July 2013 issue of

- [Time-Relevant Metrics in an Era of Continuous Process Improvement: The Balanced Scorecard Revisited](#)
- [A Framework for Leading the Transformation to Performance Excellence Part II: CEO Perspectives on Leadership Behaviors, Individual Leader Characteristics, and Organizational Culture](#)

May 2013 issue of *BMJ Quality & Safety*

- [Building high reliability teams: progress and some reflections on teamwork training](#)

September 2013 issue of *BMJ Quality & Safety*

- [The Housestaff Incentive Program: improving the timeliness and quality of discharge summaries by engaging residents in quality improvement](#)

Upcoming Meetings

The [2nd Annual National Health Impact Assessment Meeting](#) will be held in Washington, DC, September 24–25, 2013. The purpose of this meeting is to convene: policymakers; public health professionals; HIA practitioners; community-based organizations; researchers; decision makers from non-health agencies interested in factoring health into their projects and policies, such as planning, transportation, housing, agriculture, energy, environment and education; and others with an interest in learning more about HIAs. It will also offer a special, one-day summit tailored specifically to policymakers.

The [2013 American Public Health Association Meeting & Exposition](#) will be held in Boston, MA from November 2–6, 2013. The conference theme is “Think Global, Act Local: Best Practices Around the World.” **Visit APHL in booth 729!**

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This newsletter was supported by Cooperative Agreement # U60HM000803 from CDC and/or Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC and/or Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response or APHL.

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