



Cúram Maolaitheach & Tinneas Ainsealach,
Urlár 2, Teach Dara, Ascail na gCrann Teile,
Páirc na Milaoise, Nás na Rí,
Co. Chill Dara.

**Palliative Care & Chronic Illness,
2nd Floor, Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue,
Millennium Park, Naas,
Co. Kildare.**

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31st May, 2010.

Implementation of the International Standardisation of HbA1c measurement in Ireland

Dear Colleague,

Further to previous correspondence regarding the above implementation, I am now writing to advise you of a number of additional tasks to be undertaken to ensure that all necessary preparations have been made at your site in readiness for the **1st July, 2010** deadline. It would be appreciated if the content of this letter could be brought to the attention of all relevant personnel in your area, including Diabetes clinics and units using POCT analysers.

GP Messaging Systems

We have in recent times been in contact with System Vendors and IT support regarding the forthcoming changes, and in particular, the impact of changes on laboratory results sent electronically through Healthlink and the regional messaging services to ensure interoperability. The attached GP Messaging Standard has been prepared and should now be incorporated into your system to ensure that general practice information systems can import and parse the results correctly. **It is important that this standard is adhered to in its entirety.**

In recent discussions with regional messaging services, we have been asked to request laboratories to provide test results to vendors by this **Friday, 4th June, 2010**. If you have any difficulty with this deadline, I would appreciate if you would kindly let me know.

It would be helpful also if you were in a position to include a letter with hard copy lab reports going to GP's during June notifying of forthcoming changes in reporting.

Project Team update for Laboratory Personnel

A meeting for laboratory personnel with the project team has been arranged for Wednesday, 9th June, 2010 at 10.30 a.m. in the Smart Centre, Public Appointments Service, Chapter House, 26-30 Upper Abbey St, Dublin 1. This meeting will provide an opportunity to review readiness within individual locations and address any remaining issues. Individuals wishing to attend this meeting should notify Fiona Gleeson (fiona.gleeson1@hse.ie, tel: 045 882588).

Support to Laboratory Personnel – ‘Buddy System’

We would like to remind you that the following members of the Project Team are available should you wish to raise any issues of concern regarding the implementation at your location.

HbA1c Analyser	Analyser DMS	Laboratory Information System	Hospital	Contact	Contact details
Menarini (Medicon)	Menasoft	BHIS	Beaumont Hospital, Dublin	Helen Moore	helenmoore@beaumont.ie
Menarini (Medicon)	Menasoft	NetAcquire LIMS	Cavan General Hospital	Peter Anderson	peter.anderson@hse.ie
Menarini (Medicon)	Menasoft	iSOFT	Galway University Hospital	Paula O'Shea	PaulaM.OShea@hse.ie
Tosoh (Unitech)	Piano	iSOFT	Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick	Marie English	Marie.english@hse.ie
Menarini (Medicon)	Menasoft	Telepath	St. James's Hospital, Dublin	Ophelia Blake	oblake@stjames.ie
Tosoh (Unitech)	Piano	iSOFT	St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin	Tom Smith	thomas.smith@ucd.ie

Locations using BioRad equipment will be contacted separately.

Information Leaflets

We have remaining supplies of information leaflets for members of the public and health professionals. If you require further copies please contact Fiona Gleeson (details above). The Diabetes web page of the HSE site contains valuable information regarding this initiative also www.hse.ie/go/diabetes.

IEQAS Verification Process

All laboratory analysers and POCT meters that have been brought to our attention have participated in the IEQAS Verification Process. Most have already been issued with a certificate stating that performance is acceptable. Only those requiring repeat testing and some late registrations are currently being analysed. If you have not received a certificate by 9th June 2010 for each analyser/meter for which you are responsible, please contact IEQAS at

01 4957356. Note however that a very small number of analysers have not yet converted to IFCC primary calibration; these will not be issued with certificates and individual arrangements are being agreed with the HSE Project Team.

As the final stage of the Verification Process, please fax/post a copy of any patient report (anonymised) to IEQAS after dual reporting has commenced on 1st July 2010. IEQAS, B06 Nutgrove Enterprise Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14; Fax 01 4957838.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance with the project. I would be happy to provide any additional information if required, and can be contacted by e-mail at loraine.mcgrattan@hse.ie or telephone 045-882582.

Yours sincerely,


Loraine McGrattan
Project Manager