

City of Hope Medical Foundation EHR Lab Integration

Background

We recently assisted one of our clients—a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center – in standing up bidirectional lab integration

Project Scope

- LabCorp HL7 order/result interface with Allscripts Enterprise EHR
- Quest HL7 order/result interface with Allscripts Enterprise EHR
- Synchronization of compendiums (386 clinical items for LabCorp and 386 for Quest to an existing in-house compendium)
- Total order volume ~100 per (including both vendors)

Lessons Learned

Long Orderable Item Codes

Quest sent over order codes that had more than 10 characters, which failed in the interface because the Works

database can only handle order codes that are 10 characters in length. A t-table was created to fix this issue. The Quest code was sent into the t-table and a truncated version was sent to the Works database.

Time Zone Issues

Another issue that arose had to do with time zone problems. City of Hope is in PST, the specimen collected date/time is in PST, but Labcorp results the messages in EST. There is a timeoffset parameter available in the Allscripts result API (application programming interface) which we was set to -180 (unit of minutes) to account for the fact that the results were sent in EST.

Compendium Synchronization across multiple labs

The compendiums were synchronized so that only one orderable item appeared to the end-user for selection in the EHR application. The Requested Performing Location (RPL) that was selected would dictate which code was sent (as each vendor has their own codes for clinical items). This RPL can be optionally defaulted with logic based upon ordering location and patient insurance.

“We thoroughly enjoyed working with Galen on our lab interfaces project. They were experienced and guided us with expertise from start to finish. With the help of Galen we were able to implement bi-directional lab interfaces that not only meet but exceed the expectations of our clinicians. As a multi-site cancer specialty we rely heavily on lab work for our patients. With the help of Galen we have been able to significantly reduce the turn-around time to receive the clinical data required to deliver the best possible care to our patients.”

GLEN ZHOU, Senior Clinical Systems Analyst, City of Hope Medical Foundation