S A L M S

State Animal Laboratory Messaging Service

The speed of commerce now demands that information move as expeditiously and efficiently as possible from point A to point B to meet client expectations and demands. The veterinary diagnostic laboratory community in the US has been struggling to accomplish such information transfer for years. Many parts of the necessary infrastructure to support these transfers exist (LIMS, messaging software, messaging standards…) but there is currently no overall linkage between these parts.

The development of a State Animal Laboratory Messaging Service (SALMS) is meant to complete the linkages and therefore provide and end-to-end infrastructure for the electronic transfer of information. The "missing link" at this point is a central message routing site. SALMS is intended to address this and bridge the gap between what are now isolated systems.

SALMS will:

- Provide a routing/messaging service for any/all State or Federal veterinary diagnostic laboratories

- Be a controlled, secure pathway - registration and approval will be required to participate, but will be less complicated than government requirements

- Create a communication path for both order and result messages between any two or more participating laboratories, for any testing service

- Promote electronic transfer of testing information between LIMS at different labs, making that transfer more efficient and accurate

- Utilize industry standards for messaging – it will require messages in a standardized, published XML format, this may not be strictly an HL7 standard but will follow best practices of the informatics standards development community and use existing standards wherever appropriate.

- Require a participating lab to have the capability to create the standard XML message and receive the standard XML message – how each lab handles the data that goes into or comes out of a message is up to them locally. SALMS participants will provide technical support if needed to assist another lab to participate.

- Be built using open-source, industry vetted and accepted, free components

- Independent of source mechanisms for generating or receiving messages i.e. no specific software or mechanism is mandated for a lab to participate

- Hosted (server and software) and administered by Cornell University, inside its secure firewall

- Free to qualified participants

SALMS will not:

- Be a data repository – messages and the data they contain are passed through the routing service and are not retained longer than necessary to facilitate secure transfer.

- Necessarily replace the NAHLN IT system – although it could serve the routing needs for these messages as well

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