

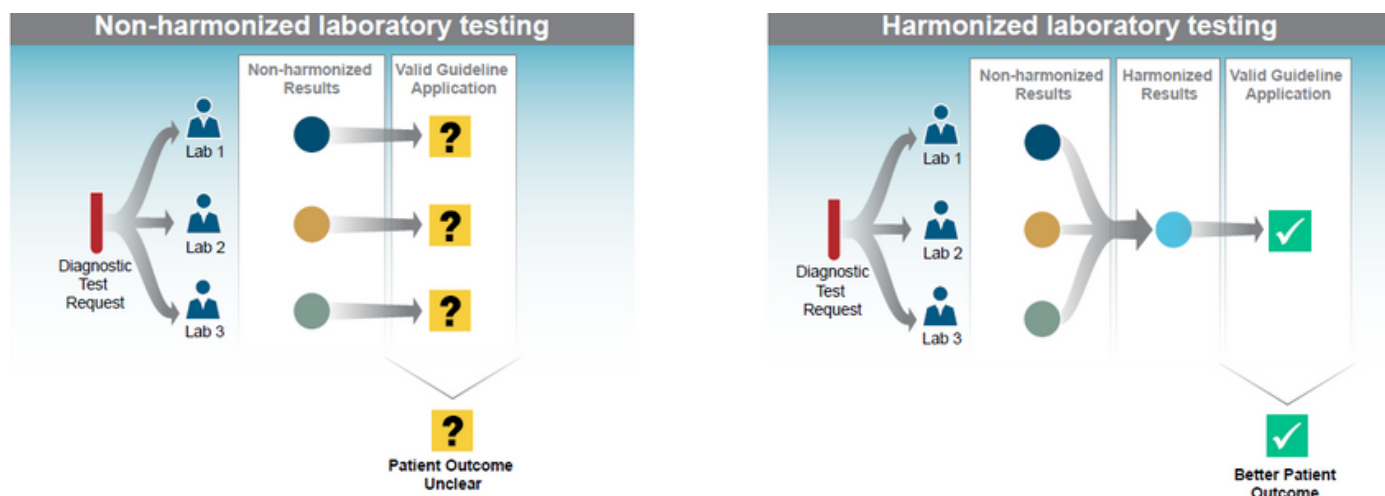
The Need to Harmonize Clinical Laboratory Test Results

Laboratory test results are a essential component of patient care

- Helping physicians diagnose disease;
- develop clinical guidelines;
- direct treatment options, and;
- improve and measure the quality of patient care.

However, the range of numbers may vary depending on the method used:

Clinical laboratory test results need to be harmonized so that healthcare providers and the public receive the same numeric result regardless of the method or instrument used or the setting where it was performed.



- Different test methods often report different values for the same condition.
- The results may be accurate, but this variation can create confusion for physicians and patients.
- Harmonized test results ensure that clinical guidelines based on the results of laboratory tests assure more reliable diagnoses and prevent treatment errors.
- Harmonized clinical laboratory test results may prevent unnecessary – and expensive – follow-up diagnostic procedures and treatments that could arise due to misinterpretation of results.

ADLM and its partners call on Congress to provide an additional \$7.2 million for harmonization activities directed by the Environmental Health Laboratory in fiscal year (FY) 2026.

- **Congress has demonstrated its support for this effort by providing CDC with \$2 million every fiscal year since 2018.**
- **The CDC harmonization initiative has improved diagnosis and treatment for diseases such as hypothyroidism, chronic kidney disease, and osteoporosis.**

Importance for Healthcare IT

- **Harmonization is essential for unlocking the potential of health AI and analytics.** These systems depend on consistent, high-quality data to deliver accurate diagnostics and treatment recommendations. **Variability in laboratory test results undermines AI's reliability, leading to potential errors in care.**
- **Harmonized test results ensure a standardized data foundation,** enabling AI to detect patterns, support clinical decisions, and improve patient outcomes. **Without harmonization, health AI cannot fully achieve its promise of enhancing healthcare quality and efficiency.**

Partner Organizations

- American Medical Technologists
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- American Society for Microbiology
- American Thyroid Association
- Association for Molecular Pathology
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
- Big Cities Health Coalition
- COLA, Inc.
- College of American Pathologists
- Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
- Pediatric Endocrine Society
- Quest Diagnostics
- Roche Diagnostics
- Siemens Healthineers Diagnostics
- Society for Reproductive Investigation

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