Partnering with industry leaders who truly understand these demands and are prepared to help providers implement appropriate practices is critical to successfully attesting to Meaningful Use.

Sunquest is dedicated to helping our clients with every stage of Meaningful Use by providing certified solutions that are scalable and aligned with existing workflows.

Sunquest Laboratory was the first LIS-focused vendor to be modularly certified for Meaningful Use in 2011, and continues to develop solutions that meet current and upcoming criteria.

As members in the healthcare industry, we all share in the goal of Meaningful Use: to provide better care to patients. It is our responsibility to realize the vision of this program through meeting specific measures in order to make a positive impact on patient and community healthcare.

LABORATORY DATA
Laboratory data comprises the majority of a patient's medical record and informs care decisions. Accurate lab results are critical to providing quality patient care. Proper reporting and sharing of laboratory data is key; meaningful laboratory data is necessary for Meaningful Use.

Demonstrate Meaningful Use in your lab through Sunquest Laboratory. With the addition of a Meaningful Use module, Sunquest Laboratory can help your lab meet core requirements 170.314(b)(5) Incorporate Results and 170.314(f)(4) Reportable Results. An additional interface can be added to meet requirements for 170.314(b)(6) Ambulatory Results.

Addressing Meaningful Use criteria through the LIS enables hospitals to easily meet core requirements and menu items that will likely become core in the future. Hospitals have found that partnering with Sunquest as a
“Being well-positioned for laboratory requirements through our LIS gives us the bandwidth to focus on non-laboratory criteria.”

– Bonnie Kierstead, Director of Clinical IT Strategy
Florida Hospital - Orlando, Orlando, FL

proactive LIS vendor has enabled them to demonstrate Meaningful Use now and be well-positioned for future stages. Sunquest clients that have previously adopted the Meaningful Use Module can upgrade to Meaningful Use 2014 Incorporate and Reportable without cost. Seamless integration of a Meaningful Use module in the lab allows for organizations to devote time and resources to other departments struggling with MU.

STAGES AND TIMELINES
Meaningful Use Stage 1 for hospitals is in effect until October 1, 2013. Stage 2 criteria will be effective on October 1, 2013. Stage 2 maintains the same laboratory objectives as Stage 1, increasing the thresholds and moving menu items to core. Demonstration of any stage in 2014 will be 90 days. The last day for hospitals to begin demonstration is July 1, 2014. Requirements for Stage 3 have already been proposed. Stage 3 will continue to advance these objectives toward the ultimate goal. Incentive payments will decrease every year and eventually be replaced with a penalty schedule for noncompliance. By 2015, it is expected that physicians and healthcare organizations are Meaningful Users.

Hospitals that meet early stages of Meaningful Use will find it easier to meet subsequent requirements. In addition, organizations are still eligible for incentive payments that will decrease every year and eventually be replaced with a penalty schedule for noncompliance. In the future, it will be expected that physicians and healthcare organizations can demonstrate Meaningful Use.

SUNQUEST’S STRATEGY
At Sunquest, Meaningful Use is a top priority. We are poised to meet current and upcoming stages of Meaningful Use through certified solutions and proactive product development. We partner with clients to plan for changing requirements within their unique organizations, and many clients that already use Sunquest Laboratory to demonstrate MU have received incentive payments and are positioned to meet more demanding criteria. LOINC is required with the subset or tests needed for Reportable Lab Results criteria and can be expanded to all tests for coded results to the HIS and ambulatory providers.

LOINC-coded results sent by the Lab to the HIS will support that system to meet §170.314(b)(1) & (b)(2) Transitions of Care and §170.314(e)(1) Patient Access which require LOINC as part of the “HL7 Implementation Guide for CDA Release 2: IHE Health Story Consolidation.” Sending LOINC-coded results to ambulatory providers is part of the Stage 2 menu item §170.314(b)(6) in which Hospitals send LOINC-coded clinical lab results to the ordering provider for more than 20% of electronic lab orders received.

Sunquest offers continuing education and resources through webinars, industry references, special interest and user groups, and thought leaders from across the industry. Providing the first modularly certified LIS was only the beginning; Sunquest strives to be at the forefront of Meaningful Use to better serve our clients and help them improve healthcare for their patients and our community.