



APIC Starter Questions for Surveillance Technology Vendors

These are questions which might be asked of each ST vendor. This preliminary information may help determine which vendor(s) you'll use the assessment tool to gather decision making information.

1. Which surveillance models does the technology support?

- Targeted
- Hospital-wide
- Both
- Other (specify)

2. Is the data entered

- manually (i.e. by user)
- automatically (i.e. by the ST product)
- both

Which information systems can it gather data from?

- ADT (Admission, Discharge, Transfer) Pharmacy
- Laboratory Surgical / OR
- Radiology
- Other(s): _____
- Homegrown databases

3. How often is the data loaded or updated?

Continuous feed (real time) or Batch feed, every hours

4. Who analyzes the data?

Vendor only ICP only Both Owner

How often are vendor only analyses delivered _____?

Can data be readily exported from this system into other systems e.g Excel, SAS etc.?

5. Who creates the report formats? Vendor ICP Both

Can they be customized? Yes No

Are urgent alerts generated? Yes No Vendor defined User defined

6. What kind of computer hardware/software do you need _____?

7. Where can data and system be accessed?

- Within Infection Control Offices on personal computers
- Any computer in your Healthcare Organization (within its firewall)
- Workstation



- Wireless laptop
- Both
- Via secured internet portal (anywhere)

8. Does this technology automatically report which patients have infections?

If so, can the ICP override the software decisions?

If yes, what types of data are included in this analysis?

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Microbiology | <input type="checkbox"/> Blood Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serology | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology | <input type="checkbox"/> Radiology | <input type="checkbox"/> Diagnosis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> codes (CPT, ICD9) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hematology | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Surgery data | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> diagnostic procedures | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Rx orders | <input type="checkbox"/> MD, RN notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Device and |
| <input type="checkbox"/> days | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other data | | | |
- sources: _____

9. Does the software differentiate between community and healthcare-associated infections; surveillance and clinical isolates?

If yes, how does it do so? _____

10. What, if any, types of reports are generated?

- Rates based on patients at risk
- Stratified by healthcare provider
- Crosstables
- Graphs
- Flexible, user-defined reports
- Control charts
- Other

11. Can vendor provide interface with:

- NHSN
- County Health Department
- State Health Department
- other agencies, e.g. corporate quality management

12. Do they assist with Bio or syndromic surveillance programs?

**13. What is the time it takes from contract signing to testing your data on the system?
What is the time from validation of your data to "go live" and ICP daily use?
Who does the validation?**

14. Ask for a complete customer list, including bed size, IT systems, specialized patient populations served, additional services they use, and specific ICP and IT contact information.

15. What is system or service cost and pricing structure?

- Initial costs?
- Ongoing costs?

16. Who owns the surveillance data if the business relationship with the vendor is terminated? If a "data export" is provided, in what format will it be exported?



APIC

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