

Efficiency of an Integrated Online Chain of Custody Service

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An online chain of custody service provides an efficient, accurate, and reliable process to replace a paper-based chain of custody process. Mr. Cocanour will describe the components and benefits of such an online chain of custody service and integration with the laboratory information management system.

For at least the last fifty years, laboratories have been using paper chain of custody (CoC) to manage samples. Thousands of paper CoCs are handled every year in most labs. That paper-based system is inefficient - data must be entered on the paper and then again in the LIMS inaccurate - every time data is hand-written and then transcribed repeatedly creates potential for data entry errors, and unreliable - with paper CoCs getting damaged or lost.

An online chain of custody service not only addresses those issues, it also delivers a rich source of data in near real-time for laboratory project planning and sample management. The result is a reduction in costs and headaches. With the explosion in the use of smartphones, tablets, mobile networks, and wi-fi, there is finally a field technology that can truly leverage web applications for managing chains of custody. Coupled with a tight integration with a LIMS, the flow of data is accelerated from the field to final report.