

Kettering Medical Center

Background

Founded in 1964 with a mission to improve the quality of life of people in the communities it serves through excellence in healthcare, research and medical education, Kettering Medical Center operates as a 481 bed not-for-profit acute care hospital in Kettering, Ohio. It is now part of the Kettering Health Network which employs over 5000 staff and was recently rated as one of the top 10 hospital networks for clinical excellence in the United States.

The Challenge

Kettering Medical Center relies on Sunquest's laboratory information solutions to keep their laboratories running smoothly and efficiently while eliminating workflow errors. The Centre has both Sunquest Laboratory™ and CoPath which incorporate the Lane Passport Messaging Server as part of the installation.

The Passport Message Server handles the delivery of reports via fax and other messaging options to physicians and requests from them to the Center's laboratories. In addition, an HL7 solution was already in place to handle interactions between both the Sunquest Laboratory™ system and the CoPath system with various Electronic Medical Records (EMR) applications. Kettering were, however, having difficulty finding a suitable HL7 solution for the delivery of CoPath reports where the patient was outside the hospital network and, as a result, not registered in the hospital system. As Lane are acknowledged experts in HIPAA-compliant messaging integration and already managed significant business-critical messaging traffic from within the Sunquest systems for Kettering and many hundreds of other medical centers across the US, they were a natural choice to address the issue.

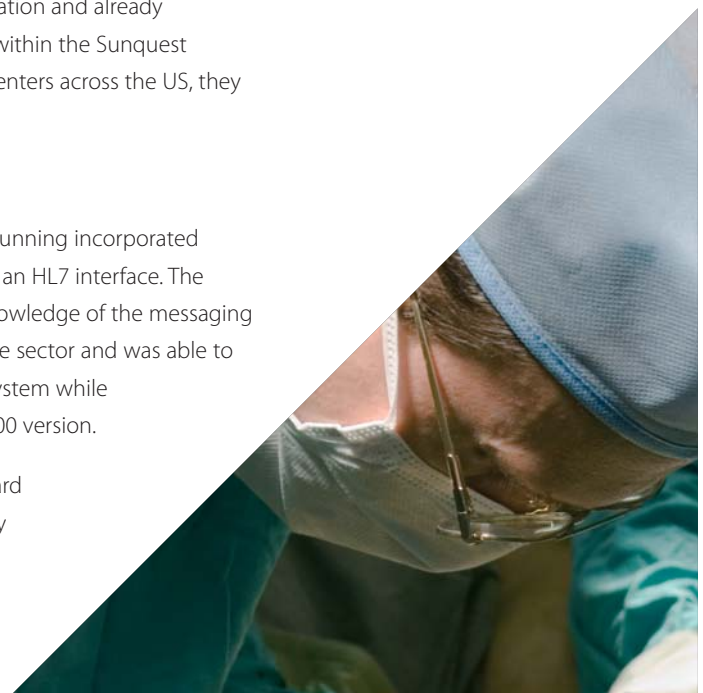
The Solution

The version of Sunquest CoPath system that the Center was running incorporated Lane's Passport 3000 Message Server but this doesn't include an HL7 interface. The development team at Lane does, however, have specialist knowledge of the messaging requirements of organizations operating within the healthcare sector and was able to develop an effective HIPAA-compliant interface to the EMR system while upgrading the Lane message server to the latest Passport 4000 version.

The new Passport 4000-EMR interface option converts standard Sunquest Pathology reports into HL7 version 2.x, the currently accepted message format understood by most EMR applications, and provides a means of transferring HL7 data to the EMR application.

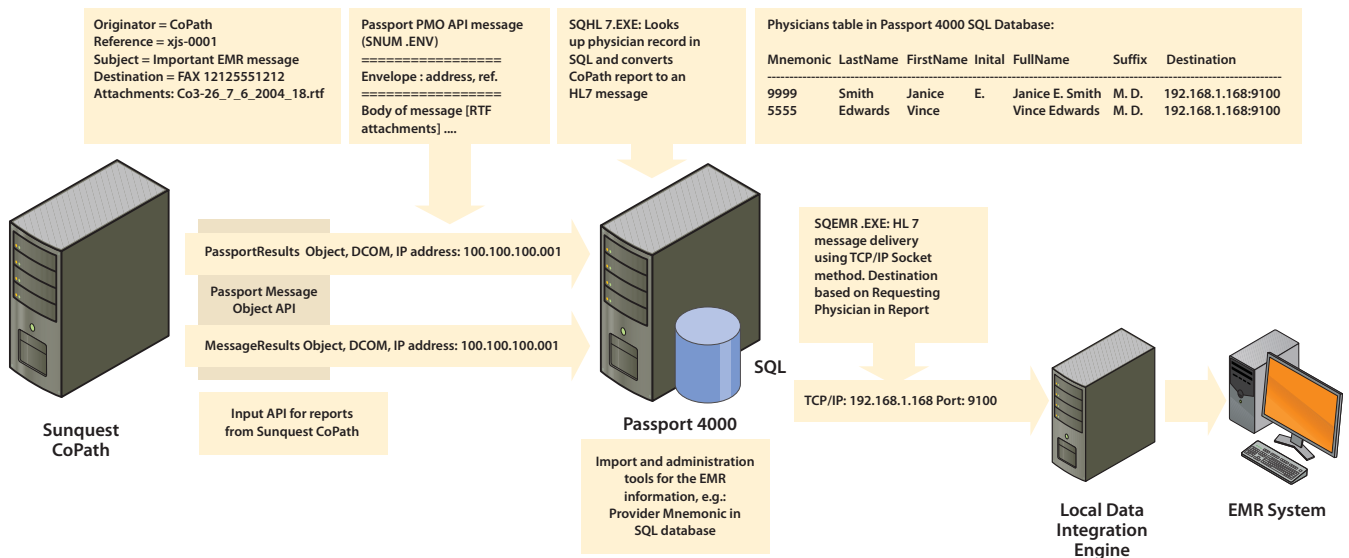
At a glance

- Transfer HL7 data to EMR systems
- Works with Sunquest CoPath
- Convert CoPath RTF files to HL7
- Compliments existing Comms infrastructure
- Meets exacting HIPAA-compliance standards



This allows the outreach facility to meet the growing requirement for delivery of reports electronically while continuing to support fax and other methods currently provided by the Passport Message Server.

The HL7 driver converts CoPath RTF files to HL7 files that can be accepted by EMR packages. The RTF files are converted to text and the data is then formatted into an HL7 file. The driver uses the requesting physicians name to query a table and cross-reference a mnemonic assigned to the physician. That mnemonic is then passed on to the EMR driver to use as a query key to determine the location of the physician. Destinations can be local or remote directories, FTP sites, or TCP socket connections.

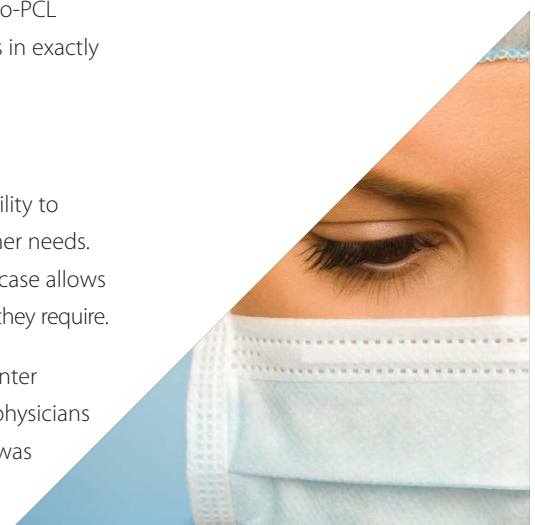


As the report will typically not include all the data required for routing an HL7 file, an SQL database table is required. This table (in some cases multiple tables) resides in the Passport 4000 database and is populated by information provided by the customer and EMR application vendor. The same interface will also convert Laboratory pseudo-PCL [Sunquest LAB] files to HL7 files that can be accepted by various EMR packages in exactly the same way.

The Result

The interface developed by Lane has demonstrated its development team’s ability to customize the Passport 4000 Message Server to deliver exactly what its customer needs. The HL7/EMR interface fills gaps in communications infrastructures and in this case allows Kettering Medical Center to interact with the physicians it services in the way that they require.

As Jim Grillot, Laboratory Information System Manager at Kettering Medical Center commented, “It’s important that we are able to deliver reports securely to our physicians when and where they need them. The team at Lane understood exactly what was needed and developed an interface that ultimately helps us to maintain the excellence that Kettering Medical Center has become known for”.



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