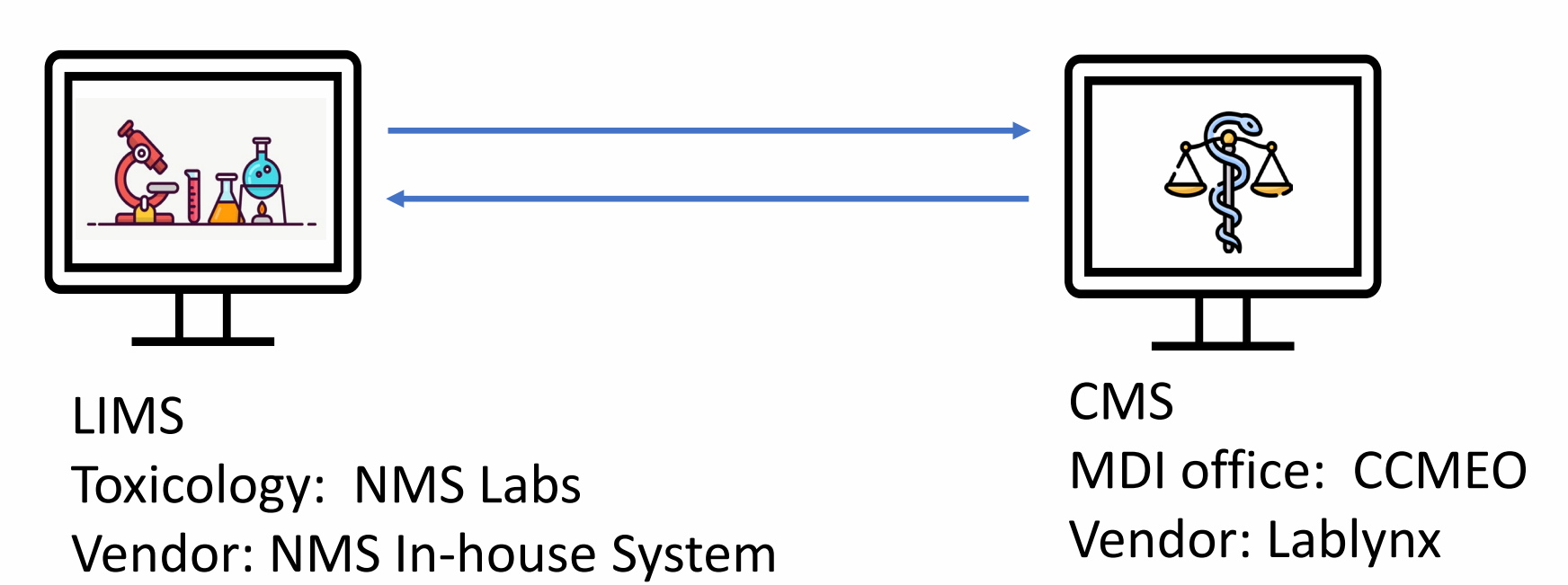


# MDI Connect Awardee Spotlight: Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office

The Cook County Illinois Medical Examiner’s Office (CCMEO) was established in 1976 and is the only medical examiner jurisdiction in the state of Illinois; all other Illinois counties utilize the coroner system. The office serves a population of approximately 5.3 million residents which is roughly 45% of the state’s population. CCMEO accepts 10,000-12,000 cases/year. CCMEO participates in the Medicolegal Death Investigation Connect (MDI Connect) which provides a supportive environment for selected MDI offices to innovate using standards-based approaches to improving data quality and timeliness that are scalable and reusable across multiple locations with different data entities.

The MDI office wants to populate their CMS with the postmortem toxicology results directly from the toxicology lab’s LIMS.



Dataflow:	Toxicology to MDI CMS
Project Description:	Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office (CCMEO) is using FHIR to enhance the current data sharing capabilities with the outsource toxicology laboratory, NMS Labs. This will allow CCMEO to acquire additional toxicology testing data not currently returned that would identify drug use data, in addition to drug death data, pertaining to decedents examined at CCMEO.
CMS Vendor:	Lablynx
Data Sharing Partner:	NMS Labs
Data Sharing Vendor:	NMS Labs in-house system

Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faster access to toxicology data</li><li>• Quicker case closure</li><li>• Ability to serve the families with information from testing</li></ul>
Challenges:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integration of different LIMS and CMS of parties involved in project</li></ul>

MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data sharing partners, vendors, and FHIR subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts exchanging data with others, and increase access to information for office functioning and research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation work jointly on this project.

**Acronyms**  
MDI – Medicolegal Death Investigation  
CMS – Case Management System  
LIMS – Laboratory Information Management System  
HL7 – Health Level 7  
FHIR – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

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