

10. Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR)

Summary

- 2010 represented the 7th year of continued CIDR live operation
- Although the number of notifications in 2010 was lower than previous two years an increased amount of information was collected on a number of these diseases as increased enhanced surveillance was implemented on CIDR
- CIDR implementations continued through 2010 at lab and public health levels as well as including TB notifications from the beginning of 2011
- The CIDR application software was significantly upgraded during the year to improve the usability of the system and to increase performance. The efficiency of software development was much improved by relocating this within HPSC
- ISO 27001 accreditation for Information Security Management was retained following a full re-certification audit

Nearly 13,000 notifications were recorded in CIDR in 2010. This was a significant drop on 2009 when figures peaked due to the H1N1 influenza pandemic in that year. On the other hand the enhanced surveillance dataset on a number of diseases was extended, requiring work to enable this to be captured through the CIDR application but also to allow it to be retrieved through reporting.

CIDR training

In parallel with continuing CIDR operations and additional implementations, the CIDR training programme continued through the year with a number of sessions for 29 Public Health and laboratory users through the year.

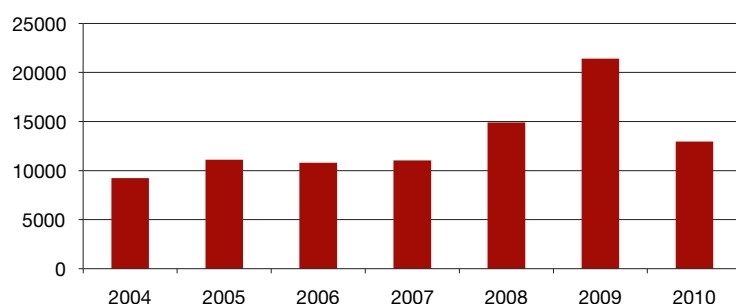
New developments through the year

2010 saw the development and deployment of a major upgrade to the CIDR application software. CIDR release 2.3 included a number of significant enhancements to the CIDR application including breaking up enhanced surveillance datasets into sections / pages to improve usability but also to reduce the volume of network traffic that had proved problematic towards the latter stages of the containment phase of the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009. The validation process for laboratory data uploaded to CIDR was also improved. This release also provided improved compatibility for the use of web browsers other than Internet Explorer 6 (including IE7 and 8 as well as Firefox). There were also changes to the CIDR 'History' database to potentially facilitate future archiving of data as well a number of bugfixes.

CIDR Implementations

Three areas of significant CIDR implementation activity through 2010 included the ongoing effort to complete implementation in the laboratories. Three clinical microbiology hospital laboratories went 'live' on CIDR

Notifications



in 2010 (Naas, Loughlinstown and Limerick Regional Hospitals). The CIDR implementation in the National Salmonella Reference Laboratory in Galway needed to be revisited when that laboratory moved from a MS Access-based system to the iSOFT Laboratory Information Management System. The TB laboratory in St James's Hospital was set up on CIDR as a new reference laboratory as part of the preparation for TB notifications on CIDR.

CIDR implementation in the Department of Public Health in the Mid West continued to be held up by resourcing difficulties in that region but a partial implementation was agreed that allowed the clinical microbiology lab in the Regional Hospital to begin to upload their notifications from October. Designated staff within HPSC managed this surveillance / notification data in CIDR on behalf of the Department of Public Health in the Mid West pending resolution of their local issues.

The partial CIDR go-live in the Mid West allowed the work to proceed on preparing for TB notifications to be included on CIDR from the beginning of 2011. In addition to the work already mentioned with the TB Reference Laboratory, this involved setting up TB as a disease within CIDR together with the enhanced surveillance questions associated with this disease and the reporting changes to enable this information to be retrieved.

As well as preparing enhanced surveillance data questions for TB, 2010 also saw the implementation of enhanced surveillance on CIDR for cryptosporidiosis, brucellosis and botulism. It also saw the 'normalisation' of influenza enhanced surveillance on CIDR for the 2010/2011 influenza season after the particular challenges of the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009. A further significant development in 2010 was the implementation of a reporting solution to allow salmonella laboratory results uploaded to CIDR from the National Salmonella Reference Laboratory to be retrieved through reporting. Although CIDR was originally designed and built to record and retrieve information about cases / events of infectious disease, there has been an increasing need to be able to retrieve lab data at lab test / result level.

CIDR Information Governance

A major achievement in 2010 was the retention of ISO 27001 certification for Information Security Management following a full 3 yearly accreditation audit. This accreditation underscores the recognition of the need to protect the sensitive health information in CIDR and it has proved useful in reassuring patient groups and health professionals that the confidentiality of this information is appropriately managed.

Communications

The CIDR National Steering Group and the CIDR User Group continued to convene by teleconference through 2010 to provide governance and user feedback to the CIDR team. 2010 saw the retirement of Dick McMahon from the Steering Group after 8 years of valuable contribution to CIDR. Niall Sinnott from the HSE ICT Programme Management Office took up Dick's position on the Steering Group from the beginning of 2011.