

What is a HIS?

A HIS is the acronym for “Hospital Information System”. The HIS is the software system used by the hospital at your facility.

When doctors request that testing be done for a patient the request is entered into the HIS software which then generates the test request and it is then sent to the appropriate department. The test may be forwarded to the LIS (Laboratory Information System for laboratory tests) as well as to other departments such as Radiology, Respiratory and others.

The HIS is also the database for all patient records and related data such as billing and reporting to other agencies such as state health departments.

Support for the HIS software and devices are normally provided by a computer system support group. This group can be called by different names, such as, MIS for Medical Information System or IT Department. Frequently there will be a group called Help Desk which serves as the front end for the more technical MIS or IT staff. Their responsibility is to support the system users with more everyday problems like a misbehaving workstation or not working printer. They will forward the more complicated problems on to the MIS or IT staff when it is indicated.

The LIS (Laboratory Information System) Administrator will work closely with the HIS staff to make any system changes in order to make both systems work together well.