UNIT NO. 3A

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES LIVE AND ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (CD-LENS) AND THE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PORTAL (HPP)

Contributed by Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health

ABSTRACT

The outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 revealed the need to strengthen Singapore's public health surveillance system, in providing early warning of disease outbreaks in other countries, and identifying unusual trends in infectious diseases and disease syndromes in our population. Enhancing our medical surveillance capabilities would enable us to be better prepared, and more able to respond to outbreaks and the potential importation of diseases into Singapore. On 15 July 2006, the Communicable Diseases Live & ENhanced Surveillance (CDLENS) system was launched. CDLENS was developed as part of the ongoing enhancements of our public health surveillance capabilities. As a one-stop internet portal, it can be accessed anytime, anywhere, for real-time information on infectious disease news.
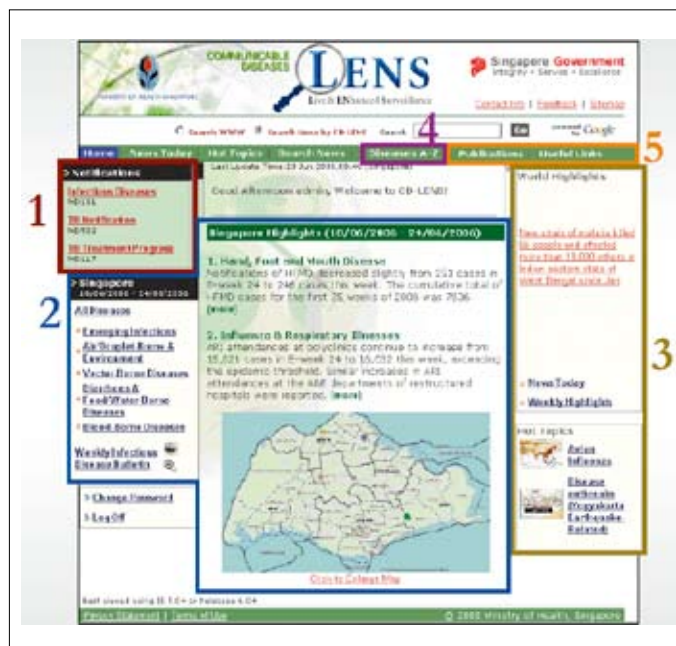
INTRODUCTION

On 15 July 2006, the Communicable Diseases Live & ENhanced Surveillance (CDLENS) system was launched. The previous Electronic Notification System (ENS) had been integrated with CDLENS, which is a one-stop Internet portal developed for infectious diseases notification and outbreak management, as well as real-time information access to local and global infectious diseases events.

CDLENS was developed as part of the ongoing enhancements of our public health surveillance capabilities. As a one-stop internet portal, it can be accessed anytime, anywhere, for real-time information on infectious disease news. In CDLENS, on-line notification of infectious diseases has also been simplified and made much more convenient. Through established interfaces with other databases, residential, workplace or institutional addresses would be auto-populated into the notification form, just by keying in the postal code or name of school, childcare centre, kindergarten or building.

Functions of CDLENS

CDLENS can be accessed via direct URL at www.cdlens.moh.gov.sg, or through the Health Professionals Portal (HPP) at www.hpp.moh.gov.sg. More information on the functions of the HPP will be discussed later in the chapter. Medical practitioners can login to CDLENS (or HPP) using their MCR number as 'user name', and their SMC-CME password as 'password'. Medical practitioners who do not have an SMC-

CME password can call the CME hotline at 6355-2458 or email to SMC at moh_smc@moh.gov.sg to obtain the password. Alternatively, medical practitioners can also login with their individual Singpass ID and password.

1. Infectious Disease Notification
Online notification of infectious diseases has been incorporated in CDLENS and greatly enhanced for prompt and easy notification. Further details on the 4 steps to online notification will be discussed later in the chapter.

2. Singapore Highlights
The latest information on infectious disease incidence and trends in Singapore is available in this section.

3. World Highlights and News Today
Real-time information on outbreak alerts and infectious disease news from around the world are available in this section.

4. Diseases A – Z
Clinical and epidemiological information on key infectious diseases arranged in alphabetical order is available for medical practitioners' quick and easy reference.

5. Publications and Useful Links
Hyperlinks to MOH publications on infectious diseases, as well as websites of international and national public health organisations, is provided in this section for the convenience of users.

Infectious Disease Notification in 4 Easy Steps

1. Log on to www.cdlens.moh.gov.sg with your MCR number and SMC-CME password.

2. Select the notification form to use:
   - MD 131 – Notification of infectious diseases
   - MD 532 – Notification of Tuberculosis (TB)
   - MD 117 – Update of TB treatment progress

3. Complete the relevant form:
   - Key in patient's NRIC/FIN/Passport number and his/her residential address will be automatically indicated.
   - Key in 6-digit postal code of residential or workplace address and the full address will be auto-populated. Complete the unit number if necessary.
   - Select name of school, childcare centre or kindergarten which has been arranged in alphabetical order, and the full address will be auto-populated.
   - Use calendar for date of diagnosis and date of onset of illness.
   - Notify promptly, within the timeframe prescribed in the Infectious Diseases Act.

4. Click "Submit".

Healthcare Professionals Portal (HPP)

The HPP is accessible at www.hpp.moh.gov.sg. With a single user identification and password, it allows doctors to access a repository of updates, circulars on pertinent public health issues, MOH MedAlerts and HSA Drug Alerts.

Several electronic services are also available in HPP:

- CDLENS – In addition to notification of infectious diseases, a repository of infectious diseases surveillance updates can be accessed.

- National Immunisation Registry – This allows doctors to access patient vaccination records, and notify the National Immunisation Registry of vaccinations administered.

- Electronic License Application – Licenses for clinics can be applied and renewed.

- Health Check System – Used to track prescription for Tamiflu during the H1N1-2009 influenza pandemic, and is required for accreditation of the PPC.

- National Registry of Diseases System – This is a system comprising diseases registries, namely cancer, cardiac, renal and stroke. Information gathered from these registries of public health importance guide planning and policy-making.

- Postgraduate Training Management System – This is an on-line training log book which records the training and clinical exposure acquired by specialist trainees.

- Reporting of Adverse Events related to Health Products – Medical practitioners may submit reports of adverse events related to health products. This is part of Health Science Authority's post-marketing health product safety surveillance system.

- SMC Online System – Doctors can submit credit claims for CME, access CME calendars, in addition to other professional services.

- Notifications of Occupational and Work-related Diseases – Medical practitioners can also access the link to the Ministry of Manpower's on-line system for notifications of occupational and work-related diseases through the portal.

CONCLUSION

With international air travel becoming increasingly common, the rapid spread of infectious diseases across borders has become a very real and serious threat. There is, therefore, a need for an online surveillance system through which medical practitioners can submit timely notifications of infectious diseases, as well as access real-time information on global and local infectious disease situations anywhere and at anytime. CDLENS sets out to achieve exactly that.

In addition, the roles and functions of the medical practitioner are also rapidly evolving and expanding. Going beyond the traditional diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the doctors of today are also responsible for many additional tasks, like notification of immunisations, notification of occupational diseases, notification of adverse drug reactions, just to name a few. As such, a comprehensive one-stop portal for all medical e-services like HPP, which also serves as a repository for timely updates on public health issues, would be essential to all medical practitioners. Therefore, moving forward, MOH would be continuing to partner with the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) and College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) to publicize the HPP and to provide information to doctors on use of the e-Services.

LEARNING POINTS

- **CDLENS was developed as part of the ongoing enhancements of our public health surveillance capabilities.**

- **CDLENS can be accessed via direct URL at www.cdlens.moh.gov.sg**

- **Online notification of infectious diseases has been incorporated in CDLENS and greatly enhanced for prompt and easy notification.**

- **The Healthcare Professionals Portal (HPP) is accessible at www.hpp.moh.gov.sg. With a single user identification and password, it allows doctors to access a repository of updates, circulars on pertinent public health issues, MOH MedAlerts and HSA Drug Alerts.**