APIC Starter Questions for Surveillance Technology Vendors

These are questions which might be asked of each ST vendor. This preliminary information may help determine which vendor(s) you'll use the assessment tool to gather decision making information.

1. Which surveillance models does the technology support?
   _____ Targeted
   _____ Hospital-wide
   _____ Both
   _____ Other (specify)

2. Is the data entered
   _____ manually (i.e. by user)
   _____ automatically (i.e. by the ST product)
   _____ both

   Which information systems can it gather data from?
   ___ ADT (Admission, Discharge, Transfer)  ___ Pharmacy
   ___ Laboratory  ___ Surgical / OR
   ___ Radiology
   Other(s): ________________________________
   ___ Homegrown databases

3. How often is the data loaded or updated?
   ___Continuous feed (real time) or  Batch feed, every ___ hours

4. Who analyzes the data?
   ___ Vendor only   ___ ICP only   ___ Both   ___ Owner

   How often are vendor only analyses delivered _________________?

   Can data be readily exported from this system into other systems e.g Excel, SAS etc.?

5. Who creates the report formats?  ___Vendor  ___ ICP  ___ Both

   Can they be customized?  ___Yes  ___ No

   Are urgent alerts generated?  ___Yes  ___ No  ___Vendor defined  ___ User defined

6. What kind of computer hardware/software do you need
   ________________________________?

7. Where can data and system be accessed?
   ___ Within Infection Control Offices on personal computers
   ___ Any computer in your Healthcare Organization (within its firewall)
   ___ Workstation
8. Does this technology automatically report which patients have infections?

If so, can the ICP override the software decisions?

If yes, what types of data are included in this analysis?

- __Microbiology__  
- __Blood Bank__  
- __Procedure__  
- __Pharmacy__  
- __Serology__  
- __Pathology__  
- __Radiology__  
- __Diagnosis__  
- __Hematology__  
- __Vitals__  
- __Surgery data__  
- __Other__  
- __Chemistry__  
- __Rx orders__  
- __MD, RN notes__  
- __Device and days__  
- __Other data__  

sources: __________________________________________________________

9. Does the software differentiate between community and healthcare-associated infections; surveillance and clinical isolates?

If yes, how does it do so? __________________________________________

10. What, if any, types of reports are generated?

- _____Rates based on patients at risk
- _____Stratified by healthcare provider
- _____Crosstables
- _____Graphs
- _____Flexible, user-defined reports
- _____Control charts
- _____Other

11. Can vendor provide interface with:

- ______ NHSN
- ______ County Health Department
- ______ State Health Department
- ______ other agencies, e.g. corporate quality management

12. Do they assist with Bio or syndromic surveillance programs?

13. What is the time it takes from contract signing to testing your data on the system?
   What is the time from validation of your data to “go live” and ICP daily use?
   Who does the validation?

14. Ask for a complete customer list, including bed size, IT systems, specialized patient populations served, additional services they use, and specific ICP and IT contact information.

15. What is system or service cost and pricing structure?

- _____ Initial costs?
- _____ Ongoing costs?

16. Who owns the surveillance data if the business relationship with the vendor is terminated? If a “data export” is provided, in what format will it be exported?