

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 2:22 PM

Cc: Hamill, Tim; Green, Adrienne; Vidyarthi, Arpana

Subject: MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE DEAN: Improving Lab Utilization at UCSF, No ³Daily Labs²

Dear residents and fellows,

A brief reminder about "no daily labs:"

As you know, the UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Residents' and Fellows' Council (RFC), have worked together to implement a new policy that prohibits writing orders for 'daily labs' (e.g. CBC qAM) on most services. This was done to promote patient comfort, safety, and efficient utilization of resources.

Inpatient laboratory tests may not be written for multiple days in advance on most services. Such requests will not be honored and will only be ordered for the following 24 hour period. If additional tests on subsequent days are clinically indicated, they must be written as separate orders no more than 24 hours before the samples are to be collected.

Orders for q4, q6, q8, etc. labs will be allowed but such orders will only be in effect for 24 hours after which time they must be re-written in order to continue. Additionally, one-time orders in the future (e.g. ordering drug levels to be drawn several days after initiating therapy) are allowed.

This policy will NOT affect patients in the ICUs, Transplant units (9L, and transplant patients on 6L and 10CVT) or Oncology units (11L, oncology patients on 14L and 7L).

Thus far, the program has been a resounding success. Please keep up your efforts and help us create an institutional culture that aims for better clinical decision-making, increased patient satisfaction and safety, and improved utilization of resources.

For questions please contact Dr. Adrienne Green, Associate Chief Medical Officer at Adrienne.Green@ucsfmedctr.org <<mailto:Adrienne.Green@ucsfmedctr.org>> , Dr. Tim Hamill, Director of Clinical Laboratories, at HamillT@labmed2.ucsf.edu <<mailto:HamillT@labmed2.ucsf.edu>> or Dr. Delphine Tuot, Co-Chair Residents and Fellows Council, at Delphine.Tuot@ucsf.edu.

Thanks!

Delphine Tuot