

From: Freeman, Sharon **On Behalf Of** UCSF-GME
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 1:03 PM
Subject: MESSAGE FROM THE CMO -- New Policy Regarding 'Daily Labs'

TO: UCSF PHYSICIANS, NURSES AND PHARMACISTS

FROM: Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Clinical Laboratories
Residents and Fellows Quality and Safety Committee

RE: NEW POLICY REGARDING 'DAILY LABS'

As part of an initiative to improve lab utilization at UCSF Medical Center, the UCSF Executive Medical Board approved a new policy, effective Monday, Oct. 5, that prohibits writing orders for "daily labs" (e.g. CBC qAM). This was done to promote patient comfort, safety, efficient utilization of resources and to reduce the occurrence of iatrogenic anemia.

This policy, approved in July, was proposed and is supported by the house staff in recognition of University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) comparison data. Based on that data, UCSF utilizes more laboratory tests per inpatient than any other academic medical center.

Inpatient laboratory orders may not be written for multiple days in advance. Such orders will not be honored and the requested tests will be processed only 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. If orders are written requesting labs be performed on a daily basis, the unit clerk or the patient's nurse will remind the ordering practitioner with a text page that such orders are not allowed.

The Executive Medical Board recognized that for some patient populations the policy may not be practical at this time. Based on input from service chiefs, this policy will not currently apply in the ICUs, Transplant units (9L, and transplant patients on 6L and 10CVT) or Oncology units (11L, oncology patients on 14L and 7L). However, it is recommended that the exempt units examine their protocols to identify where over-utilization of laboratory tests may occur and take steps to minimize this.

Additional exceptions to the policy may be requested in writing to the Chief Medical Officer. Such exemptions should be based on specific treatment protocols and should not be requested on an individual patient basis.

Orders for q4, q6, q8, etc. labs will be allowed but such orders will be in effect only for

24 hours after which time they must be re-written to continue. Orders in the future (e.g. ordering drug levels to be drawn several days after initiating therapy) are allowed provided these are one time orders.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Adrienne Green, associate chief medical officer, at adrienne.green@ucsfmedctr.org; Dr. Tim Hamill, director of Clinical Laboratories, at hamillt@labmed2.ucsf.edu or Dr. Delphine Tuot, co-chair of the Residents and Fellows Council, at delphine.tuot@ucsf.edu .

----- End of Forwarded Message