

From: Freeman, Sharon **On Behalf Of** UCSF-GME
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 12:36 PM
Subject: Improving Lab Utilization at UCSF: Ending ³ Daily Labs²

Dear Residents and Fellows:

Re: Improving Lab Utilization at UCSF: Ending “Daily Labs”

The UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Residents’ and Fellows’ Council (RFC), have worked together to pass a new policy 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 was proposed by your RFC representatives in recognition that based on UHC comparison data, UCSF utilizes more laboratory tests per inpatient than any other academic medical center.

Effective Monday **10/5/09**, inpatient laboratory tests may not be written for multiple days in advance. Such requests will not be honored and will only be ordered for the next 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, 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.

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). 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.

We acknowledge that on some services the discontinuation of daily labs may temporarily increase the workload of UCSF housestaff. However, we anticipate that these changes in ordering policies will lead to 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.