

January 2014 Core Lab Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2014

Attending: Bath Albrecht, Nancy Buckley, Vicky Douglas, Patty Isbill, Anita Konieczny, Bruce Reese, Julia Sauls, Susan Rowan, Paula Swierczek, Diane Weihrauch, Kay Schanuel, Evan Evans, Kathy Stanley.

1. HVAC system – Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 this weekend (Jan 31st -Feb 2nd) – Cobas 1 down at 1430 on Friday, should be up on Saturday morning. Centaur PC will be moved to bench by AVL (for weekend). Point-of-Care and refrigerators will be accessible via break room (QC material and other items that might be needed will be moved to the Bally on Friday). Phase 3 starts on Monday – that includes ductwork from the tube station area to Kathy's office and around the tube station – this will be done during the day but we still have access to the Centaur. On Wednesday we anticipate a 2-3 hour window when the tube station will not be available while duct work is placed above that area.
2. Processing Outreach specimens – Once the fiber-optic line is available in Smithton, their computer issues will be hopefully resolved and we will get labeled specimens. At that time we might look at using site-batches (like OF50) to make bring in the specimens easier.
3. ED drawing – We are training the ED tech to draw all ED patients. They will be trained to use MobiLab (so we can receive specimens as we do now via the MobiLab receive routine). Currently 22 ED techs are currently trained to draw blood and the remaining 23 will be trained. Some of the training will be done during morning pickup so they get used to using MobiLab. The Ed techs will draw the blood, blood cultures and Blood Bank specimens on all patients > 1 year old. We hope to have all training completed to go-live by April 1st. C&D will still provide support as needed.
4. Instrument issues – Please remember to record repeated instrument errors or issues in that analyzers troubleshooting log. It is hard to determine the frequency of a problem and better troubleshoot without such information. Also – if you call the hot-line and they give you a method to resolve the issue and it works, please include that in the troubleshooting log so others can see what worked if the issue arises again.
5. 2014 Competency – No major changes from last year except each tech will be responsible for keeping track of what they need to have done and to have it completed before October 31st. Vicky has created an individual competency sheet for each of you and placed it in a sheet protector in your mailbox.
From the start this year we are assigning specimens by bottle to insure every gets an opportunity to complete a survey. For certain surveys with smaller test amounts, or short run times, unknown samples will be provided. Hematology survey samples are available by survey in the blue bin in the Heme refrigerator.
6. 2014 Department goals – This year's goals for each department:

Chem – auto-verification on the Centaur by December 1st
Heme – auto-verification on the STA and XN-2000 by July 1st.

7. Specimen issues – If you have a specimen that needs to be redrawn, please e-mail Robyne (romara@memhosp.com) with the patient name, phlebs number (or initials) and the issue. This way Robyne can deal with any issues quickly.

Chem:

1. New C501 module – will be installed Next week (starting Feb 3rd) as a stand-alone so validation will be done during the weeks following that without interrupting workflow. After that we will have to take the Cobas 2 down to place the unit itself into the line. When that exact timeline is in place, I will send an e-mail with that information.
2. DI water system – We added a mixing valve to add hot water to the mix so we do not have supply issues again. Since the valve was added the storage tank has not dropped below half-filled (or half-empty depending on your view-point).
3. Moving Tests to Centaur / Tests to be sent out – After the c501 is installed we will look at moving some tests to the Centaur (Ca-125, PSA, Insulin and AFB) – two tests we will look at discontinuing testing here (fPSA and transferrin) due to low test volumes. Exact date for such a move will be decided as we use up our current test kits.
4. Vanco troughs – If you have a critical Vanco trough and the nurse indicates that the dose was given before the draw, please cancel the trough – include in the comment the reason. Print a copy of the inquiry and place in my in-box when this occurs.

Heme:

1. Send outs –
 - a. Melissa is working on interfacing the Pap Smears – we hope we can get the interfaced Pap Smear report to be acceptable so we can start sending the Women's Care specimens to ARUP.
 - b. We have asked ARUP to look at several of their test reports to make them more user friendly for the physicians. They are looking at this, but it will take some time as it affects all clients.
 - c. If we receive a report from Quest with our account # (4950 account), but it is not something we sent out, give the report to Jan. For reports on the 33010135 account number that are not in our system, those can be discarded.
2. CBC microtainers – New racks for sampling the CBC microtainers have been ordered. These will allow you to sample these tubes in the automatic mode.
3. Urines - We still have times that urines that have Chemistry tests are not aliquoted. We discussed the CU tracking screen I suggested be pulled up (looking at only order status,

so once a specimens is received it will not appear on the screen. It was suggested that a second monitor be set-up in UA so it would be easier to see multiple tracking lists. This will be done.

Kathy's section –

There are a couple of groups looking at test utilization. We realize that we see a lot of duplicate orders throughout the day. We are working with CPOE and physicians to hopefully make them aware of other orders that have already been placed so they are duplicated. Also we are working with order management (OM) on the nursing side to work on orders combining properly – unfortunately it's a limitation in MCare that a timed and an UNK won't combine – we hope to eliminate the UNK so it will work better.

And last – Thanks for everyone's hard work these last two months. We saw a an increase in testing in December and January, and with the weather conditions in January and the HVAC project we've had some interesting work conditions. Through all that we have maintained excellent TAT times and mostly good humor. Thank you all again for your hard work and dedication.