

Core Lab Department Meeting
Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Attending: Carmella Blacet, Vicky Douglas, Donna Fleming, Carmen Rigney, Julia Sauls, Bruce Reese, Diane Weihrauch, Anita Konieczny, Nancy Buckley, Kathy Stanley, and Evan Evans.

1. 2015 Staffing:

With Donna's retirement and the need to give several employees additional hours so they retain their health care benefits, we are looking at a shortage on weekends in 2015, both in staffing and skill mix (we require 2 blood bankers on-site):

- a. We will expand cross-training – if you are full time and not cross-trained, you will be in 2015, cross-training into blood bank being a priority at first. In addition, any staff wishing to work at Memorial East will have to be cross-trained into all areas (Chem, Heme and Blood Bank) to be able to work there.
- b. We have asked nights to perform all daily and weekly maintenance in Chemistry. They are going to start by being trained on the Cobas 1 line and performing that maintenance (daily and weekly) for 3-4 weeks, then they will switch and do the Cobas 2 daily and weekly for 3-4 weeks. This will give them an idea of what they have to do and how best it will work for them. Days will still be responsible for linearity, precisions and carry-over studies, which since we will not have to take either analyzer down during the shift can be incorporated into the workflow through-out the month.
- c. In January CG/CT will move to Micro, so we will run electrophoresis only 2 days/week – probably on Tuesday and Friday. Without GC/CT the SPE tech will have time to order and run some of the linearity, precision and carry-over, and bring up supplies on Friday. We would move the clerical bench to Mondays – which means we might receive our supplies earlier in the week. That will leave Wednesday and Thursday with only 3 techs in Chem.
- d. Auto-verification is expanded to the Centaur, STA, Sysmex and Iris in 2015 (yes, I've kept saying that, but this time I mean it). That should allow us to reduce a person on the weekends to a Lab Processer, 2 Heme, 2 Chem and a float (Chem/Heme) on Saturday, and a Lab Processer and 2 Heme and 2 Chem on Sunday. This will also mean that instead of being short on the weekend rotation and staff having to work an extra weekend, we can give you an extra weekend off during the year.

2. CAP inspection – we did very well – most deficiencies were able to be corrected that day and the one in Heme we are challenging. We did have to correct the fact that Plant Ops stopped performing the weekly eyewash checks. My thanks to everyone who was here that day for answering the inspector's questions and a big THANKS to Vicky and Carmella who work hard throughout the year to make sure we are ready for the inspection.

3. Evaluations/raises – 2015 goals: Please see me to get your evaluation and raise information. Don't be afraid, I promise it won't hurt. You will see your raise on the next paycheck and on either the December 5th or 19th paycheck you will have a lump sum reflecting back pay from October 5th. Also, think of goals for yourselves – we will have to have them in place by January.
4. Medical necessity questions - if you try to add a test onto an OP or ATC patient you may have a screen pop-up asking to add a diagnosis code. You can take these to registration to fix. Registration is piloting these questions – if the testing is not covered by the diagnosis code Medicaid/Medicare will not pay for the testing and the patient will be informed and has the choice of paying themselves, refusing the tests or trying to see if it will be covered. Right now they are testing how the system works and we will perform all the testing, but when it goes live, it will be up to the patient to make that decision.
5. New tests – Strep Pneumo AG, urine – Go-live Tuesday, November 25th.
Procalcitonin – December go-live – training to begin soon
IgE – in-house testing (non-allergy testing) – Go-live December 3rd.
6. Student training – Remember when training students to let them have plenty of hands-on time on the analyzers and you should explain the whys of testing as well as what might be the reason behind certain results. Bruce and Lisa are going to work on the training packets for next year to clarify the daily outline and look at their schedule. If you have any recommendations regarding the MLT student training please give them to Bruce, Lisa or I.
7. Sysmex is changing the way it packages the WNR and WDF reagents from the current milk-carton like package to a cube that holds more reagent (so we would have to change it less). When we get the cubes in and we have to place one in use we have an adapter to convert the current cap to the size needed for the cube.
8. Ebola update – currently no cases in the US (although as I write this a physician from Liberia is being transported to Nebraska for treatment). The hospital has a plan for anyone who fits the criteria (travel from western Africa, high fever) for isolation and treatment. The CDC has a team that will come onsite and we do not feel we would have any patient reside here for more than 12-24 hours as they will be shipped to an approved biological containment site (Chicago, Atlanta or Omaha). The lab will not be involved in any way except to possibly give out POC equipment and possibly package a shipment.
9. New name badges – sometime this month – will have your first name and last initial. When we give you a new badge we'll take your old one and have it deactivated.