

Diagnostics: Step Outside the Box Instead of Just Checking It Off!



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Objectives

- To explore a different view of the role diagnostics may play in clinical treatment decisions, acute transfer decisions, and antibiotic stewardship initiatives.
- To discuss the capabilities, limitations, and factors that can affect certain radiography, sonography, and laboratory tests, which may have a direct impact on decision-making to transfer a patient or treat a patient in the facility.
- To review how improved knowledge of diagnostic testing, including improved understanding of Federal regulations, may lead to improved clinical, financial, and customer satisfaction results.

PRE-TEST

True or False?

- . Skeletal x-rays have an efficacy of 100% when confirming a hip fracture.
- . Hip x-rays resulted as “negative for fracture” always exclude fracture as a diagnosis.
- . Postural Pseudoanemia is a physiologic phenomenon explaining all low hemoglobin and hematocrit levels.
- . Instrument Errors are a frequent Analytic variable that must be considered when interpreting Hemoglobin and Hematocrit results.
- . Radiologists can always easily determine if a DVT is acute or chronic.

PRE-TEST

True or False?

6. Radiologists can always easily determine if a fracture is acute or chronic.
7. According to multiple medical studies, venous ultrasonography has the same efficacy in confirming symptomatic DVTs both proximally and distally.
8. Portable x-ray companies can advise nursing facilities on which specific x-ray views should be ordered.
9. Laboratory service providers can provide ICD-10 codes for specific tests.
10. All Clostridium difficile tests are the same.

Skilled Nursing Facilities: 2017



5-Star Rating

ACO

Antibiotic Stewardship

Hospital Readmission
Reduction Program

Volume

New CMS
Regulations

to

CJR

Value

MCO

Bundled
Payments

Impact Act

Quantity to Quality

Value-Based Purchasing

How do DIAGNOSTICS play a role?



**Don't let paperwork or electronic
documentation get in the way of
COMMUNICATION!**



<https://pixabay.com/en/puzzle-last-particles-piece-654957/>

Let's put the pieces together...

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Diagnostic Data

- Ordering Practices
- Utilization Management
- TAT Expectations
- Result Interpretation
- Result Utilization
- Medical Record Documentation

Radiology Diagnostics



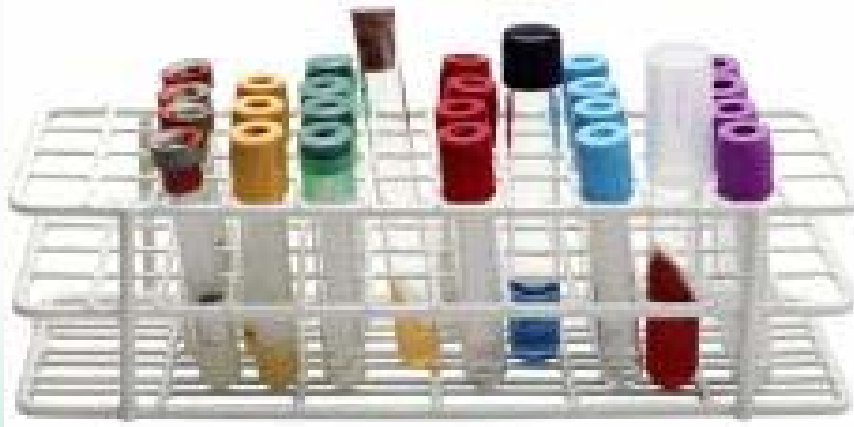
<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/diagnosticimaging.html>

Understanding the Capabilities and Limitations of Radiographs in the Diagnosis of Pneumonia

Understanding the Capabilities and Limitations of Radiographs in the Confirmation of a Hip Fracture Diagnosis

Understanding the Capabilities and Limitations of Duplex Venous Doppler Ultrasound in the Confirmation of Deep Vein Thrombosis

Laboratory Diagnostics



<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/laboratorytests.html>

Understanding Variables in Hemoglobin and Hematocrit Testing

Understanding Variables in Potassium Testing

(K⁺)

Understanding Differences in Brain Natriuretic Peptide Testing

A Laboratory's Role in Antibiotic Stewardship

Understanding the Capabilities and Limitations of *Clostridium difficile* Testing

Understanding the Capabilities and Limitations of an Antibigram

Conclusion

- Healthcare in the United States is moving from “Volume to Value” and includes a variety of important initiatives.
- Reducing *avoidable* Acute Transfers and *avoidable* Hospital Admissions / Readmissions will continue to be a focal point in all Acute and Post-Acute Care entities.
- Collaboration and open communication amongst all health care providers / suppliers is needed in order to effectively address these matters.
- Understanding more about the role diagnostics play in the pathway of resident care can lead to improved efficiencies and efficacy impacting Clinical, Financial, and Patient Satisfaction Outcomes!

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Questions?

Thank you,

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