Clinician Versus Laboratorian:

Conflict or Collaboration?

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Health Care Goals

- Laboratory
 - > Optimized patient care
- Clinician
 - Optimized patient care

How do we get there?

Laboratory

Accuracy

Precision

Compliance

Clinician

High
Quality
Test results

Speed

Minimal disruption of routine

The Result?



Accuracy / Precision

Clinician

> If a number is reported, it is correct

Laboratory

- Evaluation performed before putting a test into clinical use
- Each result evaluated
- Limitations and interferences evaluated
- Reevaluated regularly to ensure appropriate performance

Resolution

Collaboration

Train caregiver on limitations and potential interferences

 Discuss need to evaluate results based on patient presentation

Speed

- Clinician
 - Implement POC for everything
- Laboratory
 - > Evaluate TAT, Lab process
 - Would changes answer clinician needs?
 - Implement POC as needed
 - If result not acted upon immediately, no need for POC
 - Workflow changes may be needed to optimize POC implementation

Resolution

Collaboration

- > What?
 - Evaluation of request for specific POC test
 - Formal process
- > Mhàs
 - Need the result now
 - Salesman was convincing
 - Require evidence of clinical need
- > Mhos
- > When?
- > Hows

Resolution

- Collaboration
 - > What?
 - > Mhàs
 - > Mhos
 - Lab and clinicians working together
 - ad hoc or standing committee
 - > When?
 - Defined timelines
 - > Hows
 - Studies, P&P, training, etc.

How: the nitty gritty

- Studies
 - > Accuracy / precision
 - Lab or operators?
 - Include ease of use evaluation?
- P & P
 - > Lab to draft
 - Clinician to revise
 - > IQCP?
 - Lab template completed by group?
- Training
 - Key clinical caveats

Minimal Disruption of Routine

 QC, Proficiency testing and competency take time from patient care

- Is there value?
 - other than compliance

Why should I, the clinician, bother?

Compliance

Maintain high quality testing

Requires clinician time

Substantiate need through risk analysis

Use Risk Assessment

- Direct correlation of quality test results and improved patient care
- Include clinician in the assessment
 - > How wrong is clinically wrong?
 - > What clinical presentation might indicate an erroneous result
 - > How can risks be mitigated?
- Demonstrate appreciation for clinician expertise

Use Risk Assessment (2)

- Demonstrate risk reduction through quality practices
 - QC mitigates risk of erroneous result (hopefully)
- Step by step evaluation of risk reduction through training and competency assessment
- There are reasons for interruptions of routine
 - Alter workflow to minimize disruption

Communication is the Key

- Reduce conflict and stress
 - Discussion rather than confrontation
- Develop people who want to help
 - > Respect for expertise works both ways
- Encourage consistent operator compliance
 - Increased accuracy of POCT

Communication=Collaboration

- Foster more willing compromise
 - > Mutual respect reduces confrontation
- Stimulate open and direct discussions
 - Easier to cooperate with someone who listens
- Produce faster solutions to challenges
 - Expertise from both approaches

Bringing it all together



Results

High Quality Testing
+
Compliant Program
+
Content Clinicians

Improved Patient Care



Thank You

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