Data driven approach to choosing pathology tests wisely at Gold Coast Health

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Burning Platform

National trends

• Annual increases of 5-10% in clinical lab workload in Australian public hospitals (National Coalition of Public Pathology, 2012)

Are we choosing pathology tests wisely?

• What is appropriate pathology ordering?
• Do we know what to order ... and when?
• Is there consistency in our ordering?
• What data is available to inform our behaviour?
Overview

Goal
• Manage demand and improve quality use of pathology testing

Benefits
• Quality and safety
• Education and learning
• Enhanced value

VALUE in healthcare while maintaining quality and safety
Clinical approach

Clinical engagement

• Focus on specialties and service areas
• Involve lead medical, nursing and pathology representatives
• Profile pathology utilisation
• Target key tests for review
• Implement demand management
• Support ordering behaviour change
Data approach

Informatics

• Pathology interventions via clinical costing data
• Interactive dashboard
  • Data discovery
  • Performance / trend reporting
  • Clinical audit and review
  • Benchmarking
• Powerful information

Clinical engagement with guided analytics
Performance

Sustained change

• Reduced unnecessary testing for patients (routine and repeat tests)
• Decreased testing volumes and spend
• Treating more patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If Pathology Test Volumes/Spend</th>
<th>Tracked Activity Growth (24 months)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measure</td>
<td>19% Activity Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Volumes</td>
<td>+ 304,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Spend</td>
<td>+ $5,529,463</td>
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</tbody>
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Test of focus: Blood Gas

- Drop in routine Blood Gas ordering since April 2017
- 39% reduction between 4-6am / no adverse outcomes
- Average monthly ordering reduced (495 reduced to 300)
Value

Quality and safety

- Improving patient safety, care and experience
- Saving medical / nursing time
- Saving laboratory time, equipment and consumables
- Reducing retests
- Minimising variation of care

Ordering based on clinical need
Contact

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