

Mission Statement:

The Laboratory Utilization Committee (LUC) oversees the utilization of laboratory testing and provides feedback to Department Chairs and individual providers. The LUC has been authorized by ECOMS to set policies related to the utilization and limitation of diagnostic pathology and laboratory testing at MUHC.

Reference Laboratories: Limiting the number of reference laboratories is crucial for process standardization, decreases the potential of errors, and preserves utilization of hospital resources such as laboratory staffing, IT services, and contract management.

- **Best laboratory ordering practices:** The Committee will develop laboratory utilization guidelines and test formularies driven by evidence-based medicine and supported by scientific literature. This will help ensure the right test is ordered for each clinical scenario.
- **Patient satisfaction and safety issues:** The fewer phlebotomies are performed, the lower the chance of anemia, improving wound healing, improving recovery, and preventing unnecessary blood transfusions. All laboratory tests are associated with potentially erroneous results. More test orders will increase the likelihood of false results, contributing to diagnostic confusion and putting the patient at risk.
- **Financial burden:** Laboratory testing contributes to the increasing burden of healthcare costs. Standardization and optimization of laboratory testing practice promotes quality and improves societal cost/benefit ratios.

The LUC comprises a peer group of physicians from the medical staff at MUHC. Additional members are subject matter experts for IT, legal, financial aspects, or lab-specific administrative matters.

Your Laboratory Utilization and Working Committee