

Optimal Laboratory Utilization, Better Patient Care for Less

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Like it or not, we live in the era where everybody is asking WHY” instead of “WHY NOT? Every segment of our practice is subject to be examined in an attempt to provide a better service for less cost.

Being an essential part of patient care, the laboratory is a significant contributor to the rising cost of health care. The laboratory’s budget ranges from 10-20% of the cost of operating any medical center. Today’s healthcare environment mandates that pathologists and laboratory managers play an essential role in promoting cost conscious utilization of laboratory services.

After studying the cost of operating several medical centers in the United States and Canada, it was concluded that inappropriate use of the laboratory by physicians is not associated with a better patient care. In fact, the findings of many studies emphasize that lab overuse is costly, counterproductive, and may increase patient risk.

Factors, which contribute to the increased cost of laboratory testing, include: 1. General factors related to the nature of the clinical practice, 2. Physician related factors, and 3. Laboratory factors. During his presentation, Dr. Raslan will discuss these factors, and will show techniques, which proved successful in reducing lab over-utilization.