



Laboratory Report July 2025

Workforce Wellness

Staffing remains relatively stable in the Laboratory. One part-time Lab Assistant and one full-time Lab Assistant each transferred to different departments, however we were able to hire a new full-time Lab Assistant who has previous experience in phlebotomy and specimen processing.

Our Laboratory Technician is in the final months of her online program to become a 4-year Medical Laboratory Scientist. One Lab Assistant is currently enrolled in an online 2-year Medical Laboratory Technician program and will begin his clinical rotations here at PMC in January.

Community Engagement

One of the Medical Laboratory Scientists, along with staff from other departments throughout PMC, attended the Petersburg High School Career Fair on March 21st. It was great to share job options and career development opportunities within the Lab!

Patient Centered Care

We received notification from one of our vendors earlier this year that they will stop manufacturing the cartridges we use to track heart failure. This prompted Lab to search for a new platform that would meet our community's needs and improve the quality of our test menu. Beginning in August, the following tests will be available: High-sensitivity Troponin I, NT-proBNP (heart failure monitoring), high-sensitivity CRP (cardiovascular and peripheral vascular disease risk), and quantitative D-Dimer (more accurate and better management of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis).

Facility

Our current chemistry instrument is aging out and the operating system can no longer be updated. Additionally, it is difficult to bring in new chemistry tests since our current instrument is at capacity for onboard reagents. In the next two years we plan to bring in a new chemistry analyzer that will allow us to expand our in-house test menu to include Vitamin D, as well as various hormones (ex. Testosterone, LH, and FSH).

Financial Wellness

Lab and Ancillary registration continue to optimize the prior authorization process, so prior authorizations don't become a barrier to our patients receiving care. Additionally, HIM and Lab continue to meet and review coding queries to prevent claim denials by insurance companies. The discussions continue to be extremely educational for both departments, and we hope it will allow us to stay a step ahead of changes that affect reimbursement, keeping out of pocket expenses for our patients as low as possible.

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