



# Petersburg Medical Center

Laboratory Report February 2025

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## **Workforce Wellness**

Staffing remains stable in the Laboratory. We continue to have a Medical Laboratory Scientist position open, as well as a Lab Assistant position.

One Lab Tech is nearing the end of her online program to become a 4-year Medical Laboratory Scientist. Another Lab Assistant has expressed interest in enrolling in the online program for the 2-year Medical Laboratory Technician degree. We hope the “grow our own” pathway for the Laboratory will ensure local, long-term sustainability for staffing.

## **Community Engagement**

The Laboratory, along with other departments throughout PMC, will be represented at the Petersburg High School Career Fair on March 21<sup>st</sup>. We also hope Lab will be able to participate in the PIA Career Fair on March 28<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to share job options and career development opportunities within the Lab!

## **Patient Centered Care**

The Point of Care Clinitek has been successfully interfaced in the Clinic. The interface allows all ten urine dipstick results to be automatically uploaded into the patient’s chart, rather than being entered one at a time by the Medical Assistants, allowing the MAs to be more efficient and return to patient care faster.

## **Facility**

Lab received notification earlier this month that Abbott will stop manufacturing cartridges used to track heart failure in September of this year. As a result, Lab has identified a new platform to run cardiac labs which will be more efficient and even more sensitive than the current method used. The purchase and validation of the new tests will take place over the next few months.

## **Financial Wellness**

In addition to streamlining the prior authorization process between Lab and Ancillary Registration so prior authorizations don’t become a barrier to our patients receiving care, HIM and Lab began having monthly meetings in October to review coding queries and prevent claim denials by insurance companies. The discussions have been extremely educational for both departments, and we hope it will allow both departments to stay a step ahead of changes to coding that affect reimbursement and keep out of pocket expenses for our patients as low as possible.

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