

# UPSTATE

## UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

### Laboratory Formulary Committee

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To: Medical Staff  
Subject: Excessive laboratory testing.

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- Laboratory testing is a critical tool used to determine patient diagnosis and to guide treatment. However, inappropriate testing wastes resources, clogs the testing system, and causes direct patient harm.
- In an attempt to curb this, orders for comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP) and basic metabolic panel (BMP) were restricted to a maximum ordering frequency of 5 days with each order. The hope was to encourage thoughtful ordering. Epic notifies providers of expiring laboratory test orders so that tests which ARE indicated may be ordered.
- This change has not resulted in any decrease in testing use.
- In an effort to determine the next step to try and address testing overuse, we would like your input regarding the frequency of this testing. What maximum duration for these test orders will result in thoughtful ordering?
- *To give your input on the maximum duration for these test orders, please answer our one question survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W97CQYZ>*
- **DEADLINE:** We kindly ask you to complete the survey by **Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Thank you for your participation in ensuring appropriate patient care.