Standardizing Lab Test Names: the TRUU-Lab Initiative

Ila Singh, MD, PhD

Chief of Laboratory Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital Professor, Baylor College of Medicine

CLIAC, November 2019





Objectives

- 1. Recognize that names of lab tests lead to considerable confusion in ordering, and serious patient safety concerns
- Recognize that many Lab Test Utilization Management/Stewardship programs utilize Lab Test Name Change as a major tool
- 3. Analyze and participate in a process to create lab test names that are easy to understand, use, make widely available

No Conflicts of Interest

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One out of 8 Malpractice Claims ...

- 1. Failure to order the right test (55%)
- 2. Misinterpret a result (37%)
- 3. Failure to retrieve/receive result (13%)

Gandhi TK et al, Ann Intern Med. 2006;145:488-496





Inappropriate Test Orders are Common

- 10%–30% of lab tests performed in the US are either unnecessary or incorrect
 - ~ 30% of genetic test orders are inappropriate
 - ~ 5% of genetic test orders are frank medical errors

Total of ~ 13 Billion tests performed each year in the US

Zhi M et al. PLoS ONE 2013, 8:1– 8 Miller CE et al, Am J Med Genet A 2014, 164:1094 – 101 Mathias PC et al, Am J Clin Pathol 2016, 146:221– 6 Steindel SJ et al, Arch Pathol Lab Med, 2000, 124:1201-8





National Academy of Medicine (IOM) Study

Unnecessary lab tests cost an average hospital **\$1.7 million a year**

For a 800 bed hospital system = \$8.5 million/year

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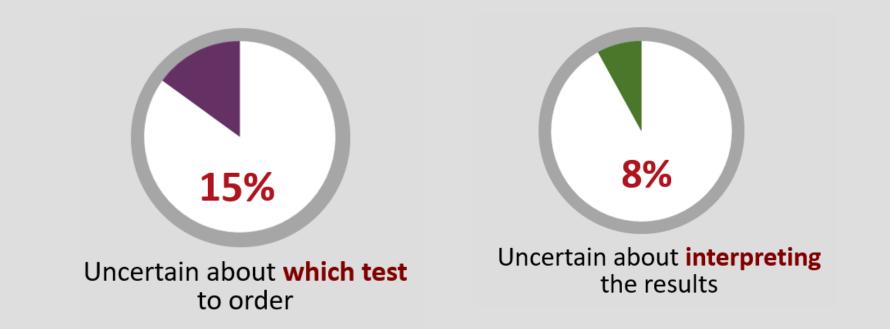
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Uncertainty in Ordering Lab Tests

Study of 1,768 US primary care physicians¹



^{1.} Primary Care Physicians' Challenges in Ordering Clinical Laboratory Tests and Interpreting Results, Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine, Mar-Apr, 2014





Why this Uncertainty?

- Laboratory tests Increased > 4000
- Lab Medicine teaching Reduced
 hours in medical school Often to Zero
- Test names are confusing *

* Passiment et al, Decoding laboratory test names: a major challenge to appropriate patient care, <u>J Gen Intern Med.</u> 2013;28:453-8.







Vitamin D

25 hydroxy Vitamin D1, 25 dihydroxy Vitamin D





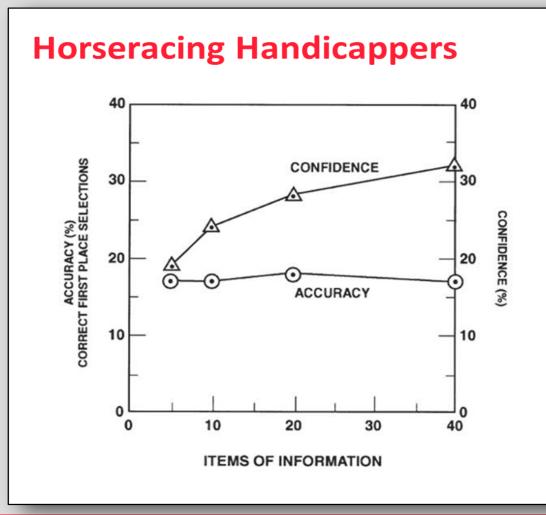
How do Clinicians Compensate for this Uncertainty?

Order more tests Use the 'H' and 'L' approach





Is more testing better?



Graph courtesy of Brian Jackson, MD CMIO, ARUP Laboratories

Paul Slovic, cited in Hueur R.J., Psychology of Intelligence Analysis





Scenario 1

Test names are well known, but

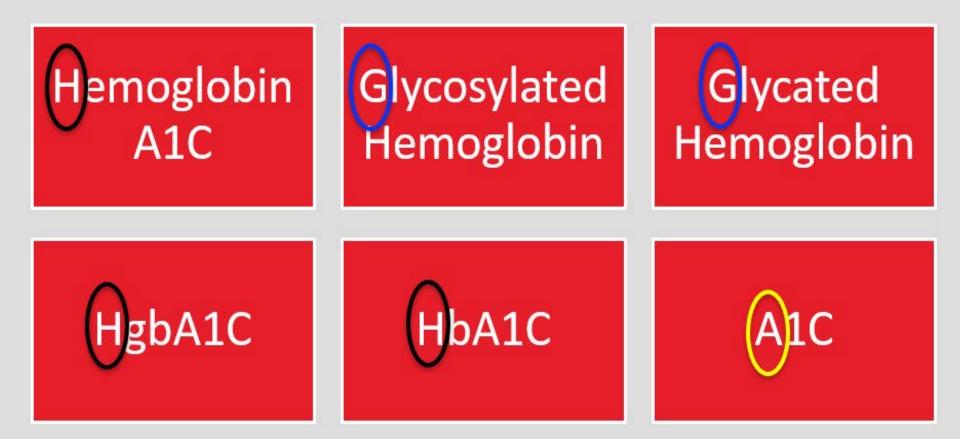
Lack of standardization and clarity

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Lack of Standardization



Makes it hard to find the test

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Some Standardization...



Because there are CPT codes for these panels, their components are standardized

Hepatic Function Panel

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No Standardization

Liver Function Panel

Respiratory Virus Panel

Lactate Dehydrogenase? Gamma Glutamyl transferase? **Screens for Viral Hepatitis**

Panel components depend on the manufacturer

This will be a technical fix someday

Hovering over the name \gg explode to components





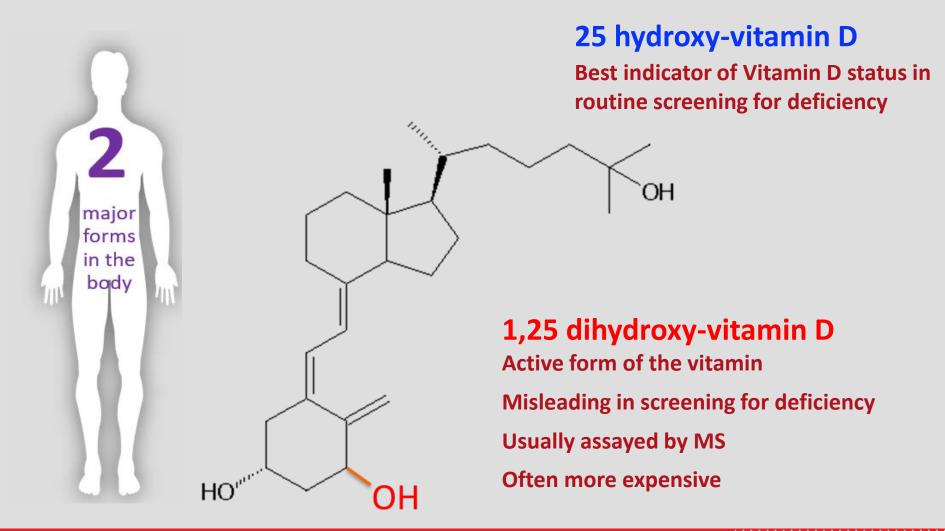
Scenario 2

Test Names are Difficult





The Vitamin D Problem



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Three Hospitals with the Same Problem

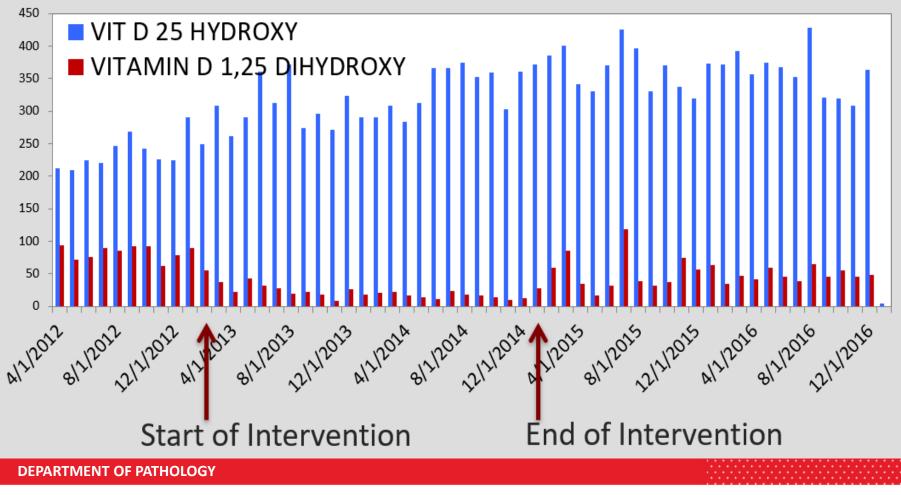
The 'wrong' Vitamin D test is ordered ~30% of the time

Three Different Solutions





Solution 1: Call the Ordering Clinician March 2013 - Feb 2015



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Solution 2: Change Test Names in CPOE

25- hydroxy vit D → Vitamin D for Deficiency Screen 1,25-dihydroxy vit D → Vitamin D Bone/Renal Disorder

Resulted in increase in the 'wrong' test!

Solution: To hide the 'wrong' test

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Solution 3: Provide Clarification to Names

Provide *Clarification* to test names without completely changing them

25- hydroxy vitamin D(for deficiency screening)

1,25 dihydroxy vitamin D(NOT for deficiency screening)

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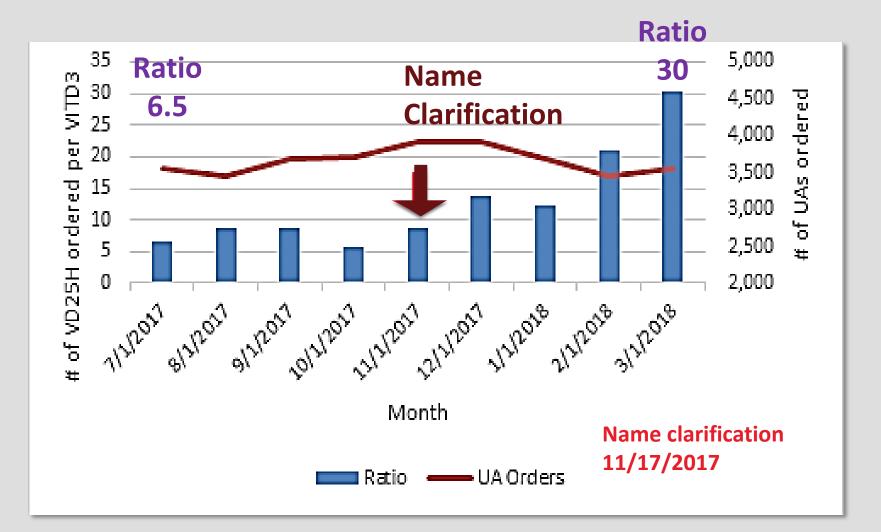




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Results with Solution 3

RATIO between for deficiency screening & NOT for deficiency screening



Even so-called 'Simple' Interventions are not so simple





Testosterone Test Utilization

	% of Total Unique	
Consolidated Order Name (group)	100 PPP 100	Orders
TESTOSTERONE, FREE (DIALYSIS) AND TOTAL (LC/MS/MS)	Cost 1X	40.2%
TESTOSTERONE, TOTAL, LC/MS/MS		34.1%
TESTOSTERONE, FREE, BIOAVAILABLE AND TOTAL, LC/MS/MS	Cost 12X	22.7%
TESTOSTERONE, FREE (IMMUNOASSAY)		2.3%
TESTOSTERONE, TOTAL, MALES (ADULT), IMMUNOASSAY		0.7%

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Scenario 3

The clinically superior and cheaper

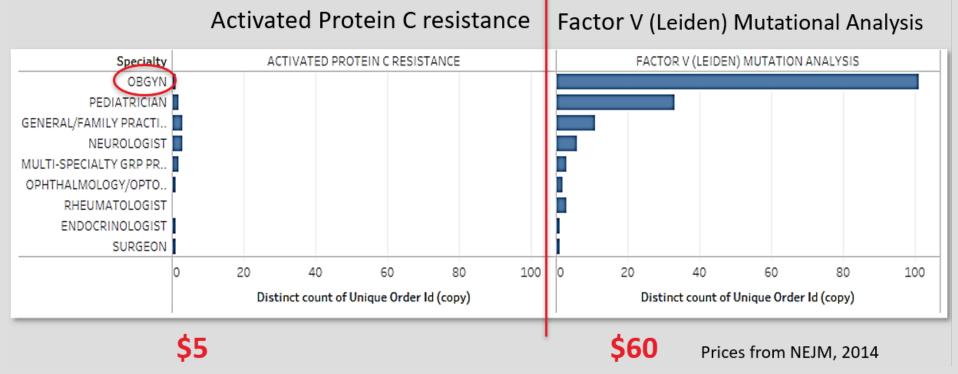
test has a poorly-recognized name

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Under-recognized APC resistance vs. Over-recognized Factor V Leiden testing



APCR will pick up 10% more cases than just the FV Leiden mutation

Algorithm - APCR screen followed by factor V Leiden mutational analysis





Many Test Names are Confusing

- Lupus Anticoagulant
- Measles Rubeola
- HSV 1/2
- eGFR vs EGFR Many EMRs convert all names to Uppercase
 - Panels, Celiac Disease/Virus Panels
- 'Comprehensive' tests
- Whole Exome Sequencing
- LYMPH LEUK FLW CYT = 18 characters
- Brand Names, Super Quant Hepatitis B Virus DNA Assay

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Free PSA



Considerable Confusion

Even with common, 'easy' to understand test names





Genetic Tests can be even more confusing

Rett syndrome (MECP2 gene) vs Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia type 2- MEN2 (RET gene)

GLUT1 deficiency syndrome (SLC2A1 gene) vs Congenital Hyperinsulinism (GLUD1 gene)

Courtesy Darci Sternan, Seattle Children's





How did we end up here?





Lab Test names are usually chosen ...

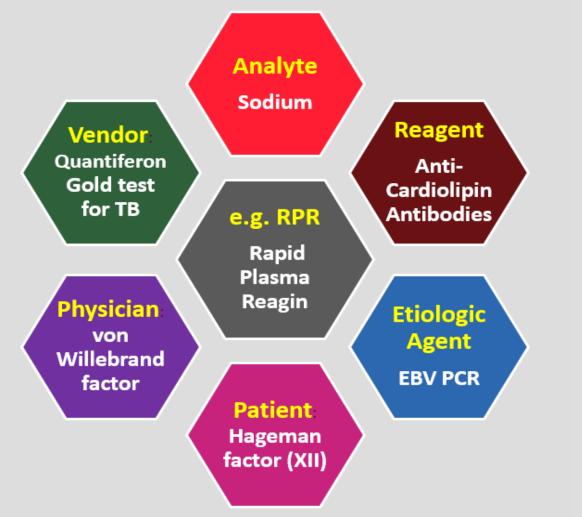
- Without consulting with Pathologists or Clinical Scientists at Other Institutions
- Without a Style Guide
- Without consulting with **Clinicians**

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Test Names have Multiple Sources





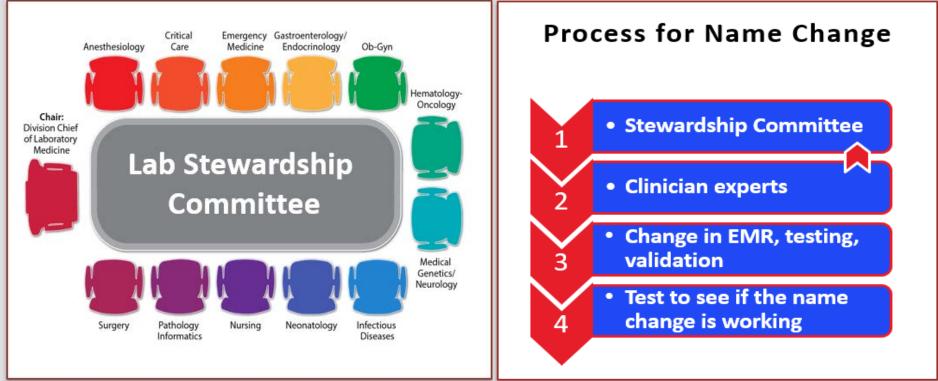


How do we fix this?





Hospital/Lab Stewardship Committees



Significant safety challenges – Recall Vit D solution

The process can take several months for **ONE** test Imagine every hospital doing the same process...

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Can this be done at a bigger level?





Previous Attempts at Renaming Tests

Identifying the Naming Problem, CLIHC, CDC

Passiment et al, Decoding laboratory test names: a major challenge to appropriate patient care, <u>J Gen Intern</u> <u>Med.</u> 2013;28:453-8.

ONC Tiger Team

Standards for Pathology Informatics in Australia

superceding the RCPA-PUTS Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia -Pathology Units and Terminology Standardisation (PUTS) project

Canada: Infoway, the pan-Canadian LOINC[®] Observation Code Database (pCLOCD)





LOINC

- 1994, Regenstrief Institute
- Designed for interoperability in data sharing
- LOINC's expectation neither the short nor long LOINC name should be used as display names
- Federally required code

Component (Analyte)	Property	Timing	System (Specimen)	Scale	Method
Glucose	Mass/Vol	Point in time	Ser/Plas	Qn	Glucose Oxidase





LOINC

Table 5. Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) Codes That Differ Only in the Method Axis/Parta						
LOINC Code	Component	Property	Time Aspect	System	Scale Type	Method
30341-2	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Vel	Pt	Bld	Qn	
43402-7	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Vel	Pt	Bld	Qn	15-min reading
4537-7	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Vel	Pt	Bld	Qn	Westergren
18184-2	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Vel	Pt	Bld	Qn	Westergren 2-h reading
4538-5	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Vel	Pt	Bld	Qn	Wintrobe
82477-1	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Vel	Pt	Bld	Qn	Photometric
3255-7	Fibrinogen	MCnc	Pt	PPP	Qn	Coag
48664-7	Fibrinogen	MCnc	Pt	PPP	Qn	Coag.derived
30902-1	Fibrinogen	MCnc	Pt	PPP	Qn	Heat denaturation
3644-2	Fluoxetine	MCnc	Pt	Ser/Plas	Qn	
35610-5	Fluoxetine	MCnc	Pt	Ser/Plas	Qn	Screen
2571-8	Triglyceride	MCnc	Pt	Ser/Plas	Qn	
12951-0	Triglyceride	MCnc	Pt	Ser/Plas	Qn	Calculated

• 55,000 numeric codes specific for Lab Tests

- The process that <u>each lab</u> has to undertake to select codes is complex, resource-intensive and prone to human inconsistencies
- The same test may be assigned different codes by different labs

Stram et al. Arch Pathol Lab Med, 2019, 10.5858/arpa.2018-0477-RA





Why begin another Test Naming Initiative?

• Need...

Need names that are standardized <u>and easy</u> to understand

• Timing...

- Many hospitals have Stewardship committees
 - slow process for <u>each test</u> in <u>each hospital</u>
- Unprecedented numbers of Hospital and Lab M & As
- Greater Mobility of individuals
- Greater awareness that this is a Safety and Quality issue
- EMRs have relaxed character limits for test names
- Machine Learning needs large datasets from many institutions





TRUU-Lab



Test Renaming for Understanding & Utilization

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TRUULAB.ORG



TR**M-La**b



The mission of TRUU-Lab is to bring together health care providers, professional societies, and industry groups to address problems caused by ambiguous, incomplete, and non-standard laboratory test names.

The objectives of TRUU-Lab are:

Generate a consensus guideline for lab test naming Generate consensus names for existing lab tests Promote the adoption and implementation of consensus lab test names and guidelines



Mission statement Scope Goals Members

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Why TRUU-Lab?

The problem with laboratory test names

Names for lab tests have traditionally been chosen by clinical pathologists and scientists. While these test names make perfect sense to anyone in the clinical laboratories, that is not always the case with clinicians. Clinicians often order the wrong test or a sub-optimal test, or more tests than necessary, because the relevant test names are unclear, abbreviated, obscure, or inconsistent across institutions. Often the wrong orders lead to safety and quality issues.

Three root issues can be identified when naming a laboratory test in electronic ordering systems:

- One test may have multiple names (e.g. Hemoglobin A1c/glycosylated hemoglobin/Hgb A1c) or abbreviations (e.g. FBS/FGLU/FGLUC/FG for "fasting blood glucose"). This redundancy may lead to confusion and inefficiencies in ordering laboratory tests.
- Tests that are different but carry similar variations of the name (e.g. 25-hydroxy vitamin D and 1,25- dihydroxy vitamin D) may result in choosing suboptimal or multiple tests for patients.
- Names that include the methods by which the laboratory performs the test may confuse clinicians (e.g. dialysis or LC/MS/MS).

TRUU-Lab is a collaborative effort among pathologists, clinicians, professional organizations, accreditation agencies, large reference labs and terminology groups to create a consensus guideline for giving laboratory test more rational and consistent names.

The ultimate goal is to bring these consistent and easy-to-understand lab test names into electronic health records (EHR) and laboratory information systems (LIS) everywhere.



JOIN US

TRUU-Lab aims to

Bring together health care providers, professional societies, and industry groups to address problems caused by ambiguous, incomplete, and non-standard laboratory test names



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TRUU-Lab Members

AACC

Patti Jones, PhD Sridevi Devaraj, PhD

ACLPS

Neal Lindeman, MD

AMP

Rick Nolte, PhD Mary Williams Robin Temple-Smolkin

API

Monica de Baca, MD David McClintock, MD

ASCP Choosing Wisely

Lee Hilborne, MD Iman Kundu, Edna Garcia

ASM

Paula Revell, PhD Dona Wigetunge, PhD

CAP

Peter Perrotta, MD

Federal Liaisons

- Reynolds Salerno, MD
- Jasmine Chaitram, MPH
- Maribeth Gagnon, MS CT

FDA

Michael Waters, PhD

EMR/LIS/Terminology Groups

- Nick Trentadue (Epic)
- Jigar Patel, MD (Cerner)
- Jeff Watson (Sunquest)
- Amanda Caudle (Atlas/Sunquest)
- Holly van Kleeck JD (Health Language)
- Dale Davidson (Health Language)
- Nancy Sokol (UpToDate)
- Cheryl Mason

Nudge Unit

• Mitesh Patel MD, PhD, MBA

PLUGS

- Mike Astion, MD, PhD
- Jane Dickerson, PhD

Reference Labs

- Brian Jackson, MD, MS (ARUP)
- Andrew Fletcher, MD (ARUP)
- Jon Nakamoto, MD, PhD (Quest)
- Mohamed Salama MD (Mayo)

Instrumentation/Pharmacogenomics

- Ross Molinaro MD (Siemens)
- Daniel Johnson (Sysmex)
- Jeff Schreier (Diaceutics)

Clinical Pathologists and Scientists

- Ila Singh, MD, PhD (Texas Chil/Baylor)
- Gary Procop MD (Cleveland Clinic)
- Charlene Bierl, MD, PhD (Cooper)
- Swapna Abhayankar MD (Regenstrief)
- Elissa Passiment, PhD
- Michael Laposata MD, PhD (UTMB)
- Chris Zahner, MD (UTMB)
- Anand Dighe, MD, PhD (MGH/Harvard)

Trainees & Students

- Julia Wang, MD PHD Student (Baylor)
- Delia Garcia RN, DNP Student (UT Houston)
- Emily Garnett PhD, Chemistry fellow (Baylor)
- Grace Kroner, PhD, Chemistry Fellow (ARUP)



TRUU-Lab International Partners

- National Health Service, UK
- Standardization in Pharmacologic/Toxicology testing, Norway
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, Sydney, Australia

Understand previous attempts, failures, successes, cultural differences



Who is under-represented?

- Clinician Professional Organizations
- Instrumentation Makers



What are TRUU-Lab's Goals?

- Generate a consensus guideline for test naming
- Generate consensus names for existing lab tests
- Promote the adoption and implementation of consensus lab test names and guidelines



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We started with a very simple survey for confusing names

ASCP Choosing Wisely Lab Test Stewardship Project

The ASCP Effective Test Utilization Steering Committee plans to conduct a survey on laboratory test naming conventions that cause issues or are problematic in laboratories. This survey will help identify problematic laboratory test name and offer recommendations for clearer and more understandable test names.

Have you experienced issues in test naming conventions in your laboratory?

YesNo

Please name the test(s) that have been pr	oblematic in your laboratory as well as suggestions	for renaming the test.
	Current name of test	Suggestion for renaming the test
#1		_
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		
Which best describes you?		
Pathologist Jahoston: Professional (other than Patholog)		
 Laboratory Professional (other than Patholo Other (please specify): 	gisc	
Other (please specify).		
Please provide your contact information so	o we may follow up if we have any questions.	
Name:		
Email Address:		
Institution:		
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https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1287048/33eb/

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ASCP Choosing Wisely/TRUU-Lab Survey

> 250 Responses on > 100 test names, with suggestions for renaming

Vitamin D Assays

Heparin/ Anti-Xa Assays

- 1. anti Xa level
- 2. Antifactor Xa assay
- 3. anti Xa
- 4. Anti-XA LMW vs Anti-XA UM
- 5. Heparin activity level
- 6. Heparin assay, LMW Heparin assay
- 7. Unfractionated heparin
- 8. Factor 10 with factor 10A
- 9. Rivaroxaban
- 10. Apixaban

Other Coagulation tests

- 1. Factor II
- 2. Factor V
- **3.** Activated Protein C Resistance

Cancer Genetics tests

- **1.** BCR-ABL tests
- 2. Multiplex gene expression analysis/ Pancancer NGS panel
- **3.** t(15;17) PML-RARA qualitative gets confused with FISH

TRUU-Lab Subcommittee 1

Use the Surveys to Define and Categorize Especially Problematic Names

Lead: Gary Procop, MD, PhD, Cleveland Clinic

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TRUU-Lab Subcommittee 1

Highlights from a very large list

- 1. Ambiguous Nomenclature Thalassemia Screen (does not include genetic testing)
- **2.** Confusing Abbreviations SM Ab (Smith vs. smooth muscle
- 3. Similar Sounding Names Factor V Leiden vs Factor V level
- 4. Same Name, but >1 Indication BRAF, KRAS gene analysis for

Noonan spectrum syndromes vs somatic cancers

- 5. Brand Names Quest Assure D for Vitamin D
- 6. Synonyms AVP vs ADH vs vasopressin
- 7. Information System Limitations Panels, Algorithms



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TRUU-Lab Subcommittee 2

Study Existing Guidelines for Naming Develop New Guidelines

Lead: Brian Jackson, MD, ARUP Laboratories

- Few US labs/EMRs follow specific naming guidelines
- ARUP Style Guidelines





Using different Standards to come up with Names for the same Test

Original name of test and performing lab	Partners/MGH	ARUP
Brian Jackson MD, MS	Charlene Bierl, MD, PhD Elissa Passiment, PhD	Sridevi Devaraj, PhD
LOINC	ONC Tiger Team	Canadian
Swapna Abhyankar, MD	Maribeth Gagnon, MS	Anand Dighe, MD, PhD





Using different standards ...

Original name of test and performing lab	Partners/MGH	ARUP
Thalassemia Screen [Seattle Children's]	Thalassemia and hemoglobinopathy Reflexive Panel	Hemoglobin Variant Reflexive Panel by HPLC and Electrophoresis, Whole Blood
LOINC	ONC Tiger Team	Canadian

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Original name of test and performing lab	Partners/MGH	ARUP
Beta-hCG, Serum Quantitative [ARUP]	HCG, quantitative, pregnancy evaluation	hCG- beta for pregnancy testing by Chemiluminescent Immunoassay , Serum
LOINC	ONC Tiger Team	Canadian

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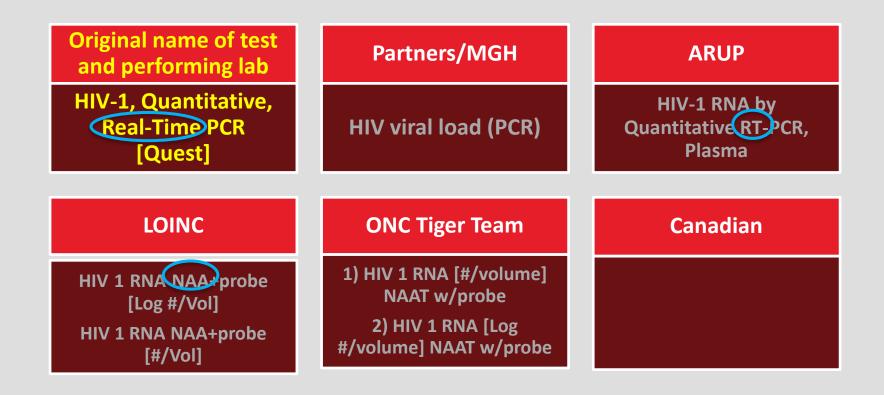


Original name of test and performing lab	Partners/MGH	ARUP
Vitamin D, 25- Hydroxy, Total, Immunoassay [Quest]	Vitamin D, 25-OH, (Vitamin D Deficiency)	Vitamin D, 25- Hydroxy, Total by Immunoassay, Serum
LOINC	ONC Tiger Team	Canadian

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Original name of test and performing lab	Partners/MGH	ARUP
PhenoSense [®] Integrase [Monogram]	HIV, drug resistance (integrase inhibitors)	Integrase inhibitors (Anti- viral drug resistance) by RT-PCR, serum
LOINC	ONC Tiger Team	Canadian
HIV integrase inhibitor susceptibility panel Phenotype method (Isol)		HIV Phenotype, Integrase Inhibitors

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Original name of test and performing lab	Partners/MGH	ARUP
PD=L1, IHC (Pembrolizumab) Gastric [LabCorp]	PD-L1, IHC (Pembrolizaumab)	PD-L1 by Immunohistochemistry, Gastric tissue
LOINC	ONC Tiger Team	Canadian

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Original name of test and performing lab	Partners/MGH	ARUP
Programmed Death-Ligand 1 (PD-L1) (SP142), Semi- Quantitative Immunohistochemistry, Manual [Mayo]	PD-L1, IHC (atezolizumab, nabpaclitaxel)	programmed cell death 1- ligand 1 by Immunohistochemistry, FFPE sample/Tissue
LOINC	ONC Tiger Team	Canadian
PD-L1 by clone SP142 Immune stain Doc (Tiss)		PD-L1 (SP142); IHC; Tissue

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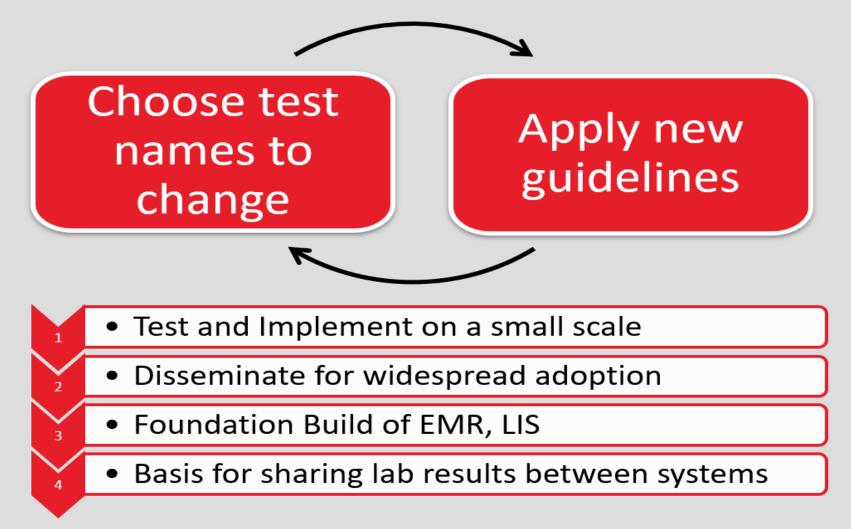








Iterative Process



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TRUU-Lab Subcommittee 3:

Write a Paper

- Describe the problem and our approach
- Secure funding

Lead: Ila Singh, MD, PhD,

Texas Children's Hospital Baylor College of Medicine





TRUU-Lab Subcommittee 4:

Define some guardrails around TRUU-Lab Activity ~NDA

Lead: Nancy van Kleeck, JD, Wolters Kluwer





Once we have all the names, how do we implement? Safely?





Testing before Implementation

1. Create a Survey to select names

2. Create a Mock EMR – with optimal as well as sub-optimal names. See what people choose

• Goal – get these standardized names in the foundation build of all EMRs, LIS





How you can participate in TRUU-Lab



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Help us recruit: Clinician organizations Instrumentation makers

Participate

Send us an email truulab@gmail.com



