

Sample Decision Document:

Options for alerting Providers at the time of ordering of a potential reflex test

Background:

The National CHI Compliance office determined that the ordering provider needs to know what tests could be reflexed for any given lab order. Below are several examples of how we could implement this in the laboratory information system.

Urinalysis with culture, if indicated

Once First Occurrence: Today at 1144
CULTURE WILL REFLEX WHEN: Nitrite +, Leukocyte Esterase 1+ or greater, WBCs 5 or more (CPT Code 87086)

Frequency:

Starting: 6/13/2014 At: 1144

First Occurrence: Today 1144

Scheduled Times: Hide Schedule
6/13/14 1144

Specimen Src:

Comments (F6): [Click to add text](#)

Reference Links: 1. Reflex Protocol

Process Inst.: CULTURE WILL REFLEX WHEN: Nitrite +, Leukocyte Esterase 1+ or greater, WBCs 5 or more (CPT Code 87086)

Next Required Link Order Accept Cancel

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Option 1: Build the reflex tests into the name of the orderable procedures

Example: Urinalysis with culture, if indicated

Urinalysis with culture, if indicated
Once First occurrence Today at 1144

Consideration:

This would require a combined, national, Reflex protocol. We would not be able to change the names of the procedures in the different regions. Additionally, longer reflex protocols would clutter up the name field and might inadvertently degrade the validity of search results for providers making it more difficult to find the test they want to order.

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Option 2: Build the reflex protocols into the process instructions of the orderable procedures.

Example: CULTURE WILL REFLEX WHEN: Nitrate +, etc...

Process Inst: CULTURE WILL REFLEX WHEN: Nitrite +, Leukocyte Esterase 1+ or greater, WBCs 5 or more (CPT Code 87086)

Considerations:

This has the added benefit of displaying additional information around the specific parameters of when the additional test will be reflexed. This does not require a converged policy on reflex tests because we can display different process instructions in each region. This does require significantly more maintenance as any changes to policy would need to be built in each individual procedure per region.



Option 3: Link out the reflex protocol in the orderable procedure.

Example: Link to Reflex Protocol

Reference Links: 1. [Reflex Protocol](#)

Considerations:

This option would be easiest to implement from a maintenance perspective. You would build the links to the appropriate protocols in the the laboratory computer system one time. Any updates to those protocols would be updated in the linked information. This would ensure that there would be no mismatches in what is built in laboratory computer system and what the protocols are because we are linking directly to the protocols. However, the parameters around when a test would be reflexed are not displayed directly to the ordering user.

Recommendation: Option 2

Option 2 provides maximum specificity and maximum flexibility across the regional deployments. We can display different SmartTexts in the process instructions per regions or even per hospital. However, divergence on reflex protocols increase the time and cost of maintaining the process instruction option.