

## LABORATORY UPDATES – JANUARY 2023

### 1. Orders for Laboratory Testing:

All orders for laboratory testing, **including** COVID testing, require a valid order from a provider (MD, DO, NP, PA). A patient that presents to a collection center without an order or an incomplete order may be directed back to their provider for a laboratory test order. Orders may be sent with the patient, faxed to 240-566-4833, or, if connected to Frederick Health with electronic orders, electronically.

Orders are valid if they contain:

Complete legal first and last name

Date of birth

Birth Gender

Ordering provider name

ICD-10 diagnosis code or narrative. A code is easier to use than narrative for medical necessity screening.

Tests requested

Some payers require a physician signature (electronic) or actual.

### 2. New tests:

#### Fentanyl

Fentanyl added to in house toxicology screening: Frederick Health Laboratory is happy to announce that Fentanyl testing is going live tomorrow, January 12, 2023, as part of our routine toxicology panel. Please note, that there is no change in how toxicology testing is ordered, as the fentanyl test has been added to our toxicology panels available on our current Roche cobas platform. Reflex testing at Quest Diagnostics will continue to be performed on all patients less than 18 years old and on all patients with our toxicology reflex panel order. The cut-off value for this toxicology test is 5 ng/dL.

The ability for in-house testing is a major step forward in the ongoing and critical work to prevent overdose and connect people who have substance use disorders to evidence-based treatment options.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S. There are two types of fentanyl: pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Both are considered synthetic opioids. Most recent cases of fentanyl-related overdose are linked to illicitly manufactured fentanyl, which is distributed through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect. It is often added to other drugs because of its extreme potency, which makes drugs cheaper, more powerful, more addictive, and more dangerous.

We look forward to supporting our community with the ability to run Fentanyl testing in our laboratory.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Daniela Mihova or Cathy Korpacz (Core Lab and Blood Bank Supervisor) at 240-566-3410.

New Services:

1. Schedule your laboratory services:  
Patients have three ways to schedule for laboratory services:
  - a. Call the scheduling center 240-566-3400
  - b. Frederick Health Hospital Patient Portal
  - c. Frederick Health Hospital Laboratory Services Web Page