

*[P-144D] Incorporation of important lab results on prescription renewal forms*

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*Particular medications (lithium, carbamazepine, valproic acid, phenytoin, digoxin, and theophylline) require monitoring of serum levels to ensure that therapeutic levels are maintained and toxic levels are avoided. Typically, the computer lab package is separate from the prescription package. Before renewing a prescription, a health care provider should review the laboratory levels for the drug. Levels must be located before proper changes are made to the prescription, if warranted. Prior to an ambulatory clinic visit, a form containing a patient's prescriptions is printed for each patient. On this form the health care provider can cancel, renew or make changes to the prescriptions. Medications were identified that are commonly monitored using drug levels or other labs. The laboratory information was integrated with the prescription package. The prescription renewal form shows the last drug level, which is readily available for proper therapeutic monitoring. Other labs such as the hemoglobin Alc for antidiabetic medications, INR for warfarin, serum creatinine for metformin and TSH for amiodarone and levothyroxine are printed. If no labs are available, a reminder that no levels have been drawn is printed, prompting the provider to order them. Using computer programming, our continuous quality process improvement has identified and simplified the therapeutic monitoring of particular medications. This in turn will improve patient outcomes by optimizing drug therapy through improved access to the last drug level or lab value and assigning therapeutic monitoring accountability to the health care provider.*