

# LABORATORY MEDICAL ROUNDS

HOW PARTICIPATION IN MEDICAL ROUNDS INCREASES  
LABORATORY VALUE

**Tyler Radke, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

# Objectives

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- 1. Understand the personnel makeup and overall principles of a multidisciplinary medical rounds team.**
- 2. Review the various committees and care teams already utilizing laboratory personnel.**
- 3. Understand what attributes a laboratorian has that enables value adds.**
- 4. Learn where to start to get laboratory involvement on medical rounds.**
- 5. Gain insights on ways that laboratory involvement adds value to daily medical rounds.**
- 6. Review several case specific examples of laboratory involvement.**





# Medical Rounds: What Are They?

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- **Collaboration**
- **Multidisciplinary**
- **Change Control**
- **Quality**
- **Stewardship**
- **Efficiency**
- **Consults**
- **Care improvement**

# Medical Rounds: Does Lab Fit In?

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- **Collaboration**
- **Multidisciplinary**
- **Change Control**
- **Quality**
- **Stewardship**
- **Efficiency**
- **Consults**
- **Care improvement**



# Laboratory Participation Outside of the Lab

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- **Infection Prevention Committee**
- **Transfusion Committee**
- **Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee**
- **Utilization Review Committee**
- **Value Analysis Committee**
- **Clinical Informatics**
- **Quality Assurance Committee (Unit Based)**
- **Diagnostic Stewardship Committee**
- **Laboratory Medical Rounds**

# Medical Rounds: Adding Labs is a Novel Idea?

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- [Rounding in the Clinical Microbiology Lab \(asm.org\)](#)
- [A microbiologist consultant should attend daily ICU rounds | Intensive Care Medicine \(springer.com\)](#)
- [Accuracy of Laboratory Data Communication on ICU Daily Rounds Using an Electronic Health Record\\* - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)
- [The Lonely Life of a Clinical Pathologist: Rounding in the Lab – Lablogatory \(labmedicineblog.com\)](#)
- [Meet the Medical Technologist Who Does Daily Rounds in the Hospital - The Dark Report \(darkintelligencegroup.com\)](#)
- [The Benefits of Clinical Labs Participating in Medical Rounds | clinicallab](#)

# Medical Rounds: How Can We Add Value?

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## Experts of our Field

- Chemistry, hematology, immunology, microbiology, urinalysis, hemostasis, point-of-care, molecular, etc.
- Test method
- Method benefits/limitations
- Clinical associations

## Nuances unique to your laboratory

- Nomenclature
- Specimen requirements & handling
- Turn-around time
- Costs
- Test method implications
- Test method selection
- Method benefits/limitations
- Clinical interpretations

# Medical Rounds: How Can We Add Value?

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## Local Presence

- Multi-department networking
- Efficiency in Q&A
- Builds trust
- Builds camaraderie

## Enhanced Patient Care

- Correct test selection
- Prioritize physician indicated needs
- Insights to further physician wants/needs
- Reduce unnecessary tests
- Timely review of pertinent lab tests
- Insights from lab on early culture reads



# Medical Rounds: Where to Start?

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## Step 1:

### As Needed: Seek support and approval from your leader/director

- May or may not require staffing adjustments
- May need to make the case of how rounding adds value
- May need to “prove it” to fellow team members

## Step 2:

### Determine which unit would benefit from laboratory involvement

- Critical Care
- Medical Unit
- Surgical Unit
- Specialty Unit

# Medical Rounds: Where to Start?

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## Step 3:

### Reach out to unit resource

- Educator/Coordinator
- Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Practice Specialist
- Unit Team Leader/Manager

## Step 4:

### Coordinate arrival and integration

- Who will all be part of medical rounds
- Where do medical rounds take place or start
- When does medical rounds start per unit
- Team introductions

# Medical Rounds: Where to Start?

## Step 5:

### Passive Listening

- Familiarize yourself with the environment
- Observe physical resources/tools used by the rounding team
- Determine if rounds are RN or Provider driven
- Recognize the cadence and flow
- Observe how other team members contribute or interject
- Gain familiarity with the unit “norms/expectations”

## Step 6:

### Active Listening

- Start to ask questions about testing needs/quantities
- Share relevant updates about tests, order sets, back-orders, etc.
- Ask what tools/technologies may help improve care delivery
- Offer consultative services and point of contact (Provider, Pharmacy, RN, etc.)



# Medical Rounds: Value In Practice

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## Experts of our Field

- **Method benefits/limitations**
  - Antigen, Culture, NAAT, Serology
  - Stool sample sent for GI PCR Panel to determine disease cure
  - Lyme Western Blot vs Lyme Serology vs Lyme NAAT
  - Thyroid testing EIA/CIA vs Equilibrium Dialysis
  - Tickborne disease, let's send it to Pathology for Peripheral Smear Review
- **Clinical associations**
  - Macrocytic vs Microcytic anemia workups
  - Lyme Western Blot interpretations

# Medical Rounds: Value In Practice

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## Nuances unique to your laboratory

- **Nomenclature**
  - What's the name of a test for?
  - How do I order this test?
- **Specimen requirements & handling**
  - The order is for 3 sputum collections, do I collect all of them on my shift?
- **Turn-around time**
  - When will the quantiferon test be done?
  - When will we know the susceptibility results for the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- **Method benefits/limitations**
  - The manual differential showed a high percentage of bands



# Medical Rounds: Value In Practice

## Local Presence (Networking, Efficiency, Trust)

- **Blood Gas syringe caps issue**
  - Numerous rejections occurring due to O2 in syringe
- **Q&A in real time**
  - The order is for 3 sputum collections, do I collect all of them on my shift? (RN)
  - “Bacteria suggestive of normal flora” provider questioning what that exactly entails. Explained how it translates to a mix of several bacterial morphotypes with no predominance of any organism. (Provider)
  - When will Susceptibility results be available? (Pharmacy/Provider)
- **Preventing a problem from occurring**
  - Noticing an expired Type & Screen when Provider is telling the RN what labs to collect and mentions they will likely need a unit of blood. Able to inform RN that she will need a new Type and Screen collected
- **Encouraging safe practices**
  - Auditing the use of patient wristband scanning
  - Feedback on how to send down body fluids



# Medical Rounds: Value In Practice

## Enhance Patient Care

- **Clinical interpretations**
  - *Klebsiella spp.* had different MIC/Interps between urine culture and blood culture
  - Provider didn't notice Thyroglobulin difference was due to units of measurement
  - Engaging providers to understand absolute values and reference ranges (Calcium 10.0)
- **Best fit test**
  - Explaining that sample sent was a JP drain fluid which is not a body fluid so order was switched to more appropriate order
  - Patient with DKA receiving daily CMP
  - Nephrology patient with CMP and Ionized Calcium
  - Bacteremia patient having daily CBC w/ manual differential
- **Provider influenced test updates**
  - Support for bringing select tests in-house
  - Adding commentary on specimen interference (severe lipemia)
  - Removed unnecessary elements from body fluid report
  - Direct feedback on possible test clinical utility

# Medical Rounds: Value In Practice

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## Enhance Patient Care

- **Direct messaging for Provider input**
  - What labs are needed
  - How far to pursue a specific patient workup (Micro)







# Medical Rounds: Value In Practice

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- **Opportunity to better understanding ordering practices and share with lab team:**
  - Triglyceride levels on ICU patients
  - Q48 hour platelet counts when platelet count is normal and no risk of active bleeding

# Medical Rounds: Value In Practice

Good evening,

13 mins

We have received a specimen for a patient of a tissue and am confused about the Staph POH. I have asked several lab techs in the lab what a staph POH is and we are a bit confused if there may be another name for this test. I tried looking at our catalog as well as the send out catalog but none of which have this specific name. Could you please clarify or if there is a different name for this test to let me know.

Thank you, Isabella Kelley

12 mins

Manar Al Shahrouri, MD

I have no idea what a "Staph POH " is either but I am willing to bet the entirety of my pet squirrel (Munchie)'s winter stash of acorns that the tech misheard " stat KOH stain " for "Staph POH"



and good Evening Isabella Kelley , I hope this response clarifies the confusion

3 mins

Ohh, yes this makes a lot more sense! Thank you for the clarification Dr. Al Shahrouri. I will let the micro lab tech know and we will be on it as soon as possible. Again, thank you and have a good evening. -Isabella Kelley

Now

Manar Al Shahrouri, MD

you are welcome



Now

# Questions

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# Thank You!

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**Tyler Radke, MLS(ASCP)CM**  
**Director, Laboratory and Pathology**  
**Bellin Health**

[Tyler.Radke@bellin.org](mailto:Tyler.Radke@bellin.org)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/tyler-radke-3a7585a0/>



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