A) Develop Test Utilization Strategies

- Employ “Choosing Wisely” best practices
- Advocate for federal government reevaluation of policies and regulations on test ordering
- Link physician reimbursement for office visits with following medical necessity guidelines
- Use laboratory stewardship

For me, ‘Choosing Wisely’ is the most important [strategy for reducing unnecessary supply consumption], and using inventory control system by using LIMS may also reduce it. Awareness to the clinicians on “Choosing Wisely” is very important."

Improved specimen collection guidance to reduce waste. Potential increase in add-on testing when appropriate and specimen is viable. Better ordering practice guidelines for providers and the ability to enforce these measures with information systems.”

1) Discussing elimination of collecting extra tubes on patients. Only collect what is ordered. 2) Physician team reviewing ‘Daily’ lab orders and working on setting a limit of 3 days for ‘Daily’ labs.”

B) Education and Awareness

- Laboratory stewardship/awareness of all stakeholders including researchers and providers
- Exploring opportunities with physicians
- Prioritizing urgent tests
- Providing guidelines for new staff
- Developing or improving communication between shifts
- Establishing partnerships at both national and international levels among the laboratory community on how to mitigate supply chain issues

We are cutting back on ‘just-in-case’ tubes, but that is just increasing the amount of phlebotomy supplies and PPE that are used by staff. I will be meeting with the providers this week to discuss efficiency in ordering, discontinuing routine on-demand blood collection (to give them more time to decide what they want and reduce multiple collections). We will be verifying if all of the testing is necessary. Do we REALLY need a protime every day for 28 days if the patient has a stable result, isn’t on any medications other than coumadin, and hasn’t had any coumadin dosing changes?”

We must educate our physicians who care for patients to be cognizant of lab tests pertaining to patient’s illness. For example, I’ve seen multiple test orders for Flow Cytometry on pleural fluids of COVID patients. Reordering of Flow Cytometry labs when a diagnosis is known for lymphoma.”

Source: https://criticalvalues.org/news/all/2022/05/10/laboratory-supply-chain-shortage-effects-on-laboratory-workforce-and-effective-test-utilization