

CBC or CBC w/ Differential? **Drop the Diff**

Inpatient Recommendations:

1. Don't order a CBC w/ Diff more frequently than every 24 hours*
2. If a CBC is required more frequently than every 24 hours, order it without Diff
3. If the Diff will not change management, consider ordering a CBC alone**

* May not apply in the setting of chemotherapy, particularly for patients with blood cancers

** Does not apply to initial labs ordered on admission but rather repeat labs throughout a patient's hospitalization

National Guidelines on CBCs

- Choosing Wisely recommends **against** performing CBCs at regular intervals in the face of clinical and lab stability for hospitalized patients

CBC w/ Differential: Numbers at UCSF

- CBC w/ Diff is in the **top 5** most ordered tests
- UCSF orders **75% more** tests than peer academic medical centers
- 1 in 10 differentials are repeated **within 24 hours**, even when priors are normal
- CBC w/ Diff can take nearly **4 times longer** than CBC alone
- CBC w/ Diff costs **~\$10 more in direct costs**, and even more in indirect costs than CBC alone