



Presentation Objectives

- ✓ Describe how to plan a design project for a clinical laboratory.
- *∠* Describe some key features of effective lean design.
- Present some examples of using lean to improve operational efficiency.
- ∠ Describe the impact of system workstation consolidation and the use of system capacity analysis tools.
- ✓ Describe the impact of automation on lean design.
- ✓ Describe some things to avoid.
- ✓ Present a limited case study of using lean to design a core laboratory.

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Balanced Scorecard Approach: Cost is Important and So Are Other Factors!					
	Strategy Growth of 5 % per year	People MT To MLT/Lab Asst = 1:2			
	Sorvico	Financial			
	Service Absolute TAT = 30 Minutes	TinanCial Target CPR = \$ 7.50			



Schematic Design Notes: Customer Requirements/Specimen Collection

- Currently, accessioning for outpatients is performed at both the main specimen processing area and at some patient service centers (PSCs). It is assumed that this activity can be fully performed at the PSCs with minimal necessity for accessioning activity space in the core lab and to improve billing/collection processes (e.g., ABN compliance).
- Bedside bar code scanners/printers will be employed for specimen collection and to accomplish positive patient ID goals.
- Phlebotomy and nursing staff should send specimens using as small a batch as possible to facilitate continuous workflow and improve turnaround time.
- A pneumatic tube system with a diameter of six inches will be used to transport specimens and blood products to/from patient service areas and the lab.
- A direct connection is desirable to key service areas such as Transfusion Services, Emergency Department, Operating Rooms, Labor and Delivery, and Intensive Care Units of the hospital.
- The core laboratory should provide an absolute turnaround time of 30 minutes for selected automated tests. Current performance is 90% completion at 60 minutes.

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Lean Opportunities in the Lab:

Identification of Waste/Use of 5S

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- ✓ Over Processing: Taking requisitions in/out of bags
- ✓ Transportation: Unnecessary walking to deliver specimens
- ✓ Over Production: Process/sort several items before passing on

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✓ Fixing Defects: Mislabeled/improperly labeled tubes

✓ 5S (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardize, Sustain)





Typical Results						
		ltem	Current	New Procedure		
	Number of steps before specimen is available for testing		34 steps	20 steps		
	Ti re	me to process 10 quisitions before testing	25 minutes	6 minutes		
		 Effective use of tr Elimination of un Change in order of Put problem required Perform patient retent 	ties			
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Operations Review: Use of Techniques to Improve Efficiency/TAT



- ✓ Develop paperless systems
- ✓ Use of auto-verification

This laboratory went from less than 30% of Chem Panel results within 60 minutes to more than 90% in 30 minutes or less without track-based automation systems!

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Schematic Design Notes: Core Laboratory

- *∞* The laboratory will use online data storage and strive to be paperless.
- Automated equipment interfaces will use auto-verification, and the Delta check criteria will be revised to be consistent with linear ranges and medical necessity.
- Supplies will be stored within the laboratory areas to operate for up to a 72-hour period. They will be replenished daily by Materials Management using reorder points that will be reviewed quarterly.
- ∠ High density storage systems will be used to store supplies within the lab storeroom.
- The cold room or refrigerators will be rear-loading with glass doors in front to facilitate supply rotation.
- A bar code-based specimen management system will be used. This will be performed automatically on the automated chemistry/ immunoassay system and the automated hematology system. Other sections will use a PC workstation equipped with suitable software.











Schematic Design Notes: Core Laboratory

- Physically reorient the floor plan of the core laboratory so that key service areas such as phlebotomy and specimen receipt are adjacent to the main corridor connecting the ED and nursing floors.
 Plan the core laboratory so that specimen processing is tightly integrated into the overall operation, and eliminate the current use of multiple processing areas.
- Current production is based on at least 11 different categories and/or workflow processes. These will be simplified to employ First In/First Out (FIFO) for all specimens (except those for blood gas determinations) and use automation and sufficient equipment to meet projected TAT requirements.
- Solution of the organize of the greatest extent solution of the greatest extent possible.
- The tube systems will be relocated within the core lab to facilitate improved workflow processes.
- Automated equipment interfaces will perform the "specimen received" function vs. performing this procedure manually in accessioning.
- ✓ Develop the overall floor plan of the testing sections to ensure a smooth workflow with adequate storage areas and space for future growth.

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An absolute TAT goal of 30 minutes will be used for all tests on the STAT menu.





Summary

- Solution Section 2015 Section 2
- Solution Form an Executive Steering Committee to get support for your project.
- ∠ Develop a balanced scorecard for your department with maximum input from customers to ensure your department meets their needs.
- Analyze your current operation in terms of processes used and workflow, and develop metrics.
- Identify lean opportunities as process and/or design issues, and develop solutions for the process issues as interim improvements.
- ✓ Use lean strategically, not in isolation!
- ✓ Develop a strategic plan for instrumentation that considers new or changing technologies and use of automation.

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Develop a strategic plan to meet service requirements and use these requirements, to develop a set of schematic design notes with operating assumptions and specifications for the architect to use.



