

The hematology laboratory traditionally performs testing for blood and fluid cell counts, coagulation, and often urinalysis. Optimizing utilization of the automated and manual components of hematology testing requires distinct approaches. This dichotomy has a significant effect on the approach to utilization management as the hematology laboratory shares features in common with other highly automated components of the core laboratory, especially chemistry, but also more manual sections of the laboratory such as special coagulation testing. Thus, there is a divide in the hematology laboratory menu characterized by some of the most automated tests (e.g., hemoglobin/hematocrit) and the least automated tests (e.g., manual microscopic review of leukocyte differential).