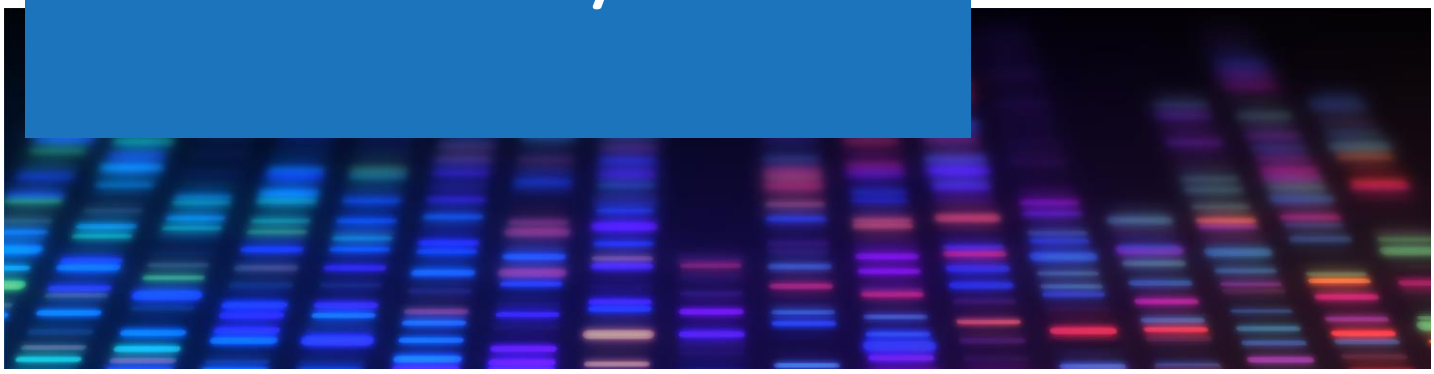
PCG Laboratory News

Issue 5: August 2024



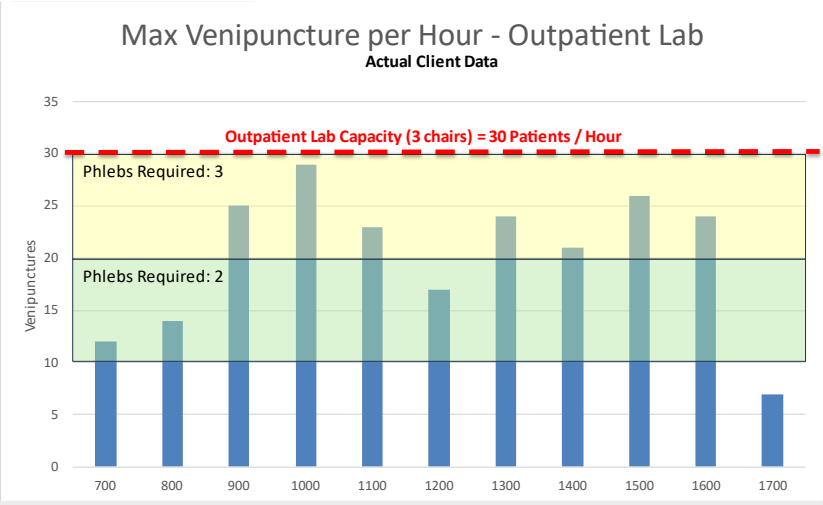
DO I HAVE ENOUGH STAFF?

Laboratories are finding it more difficult to fill vacant positions. ASCP reported the vacancy rates have increased and the length of time to replace a vacant position has now **doubled** since pre-pandemic surveys. Labs are now experiencing an average 6-12 months to replace technologists.[1]

What can a laboratory do? First, determine whether you have the appropriate number of employees. That most recent vacancy may not be as critical as it appears. Advances in technology have improved laboratory productivity.

PCG offers labor productivity benchmarking services to help laboratories determine staffing levels. Our function-based custom benchmarks are carefully calculated by our laboratorian consultants, modifying each department's benchmarks based on local functions. We then compare your laboratory to our extensive database and will recommend staffing levels that achieve performance without sacrificing quality and safety.

[1] *Am J Clin Pathol* March 2024; 161:289-304.



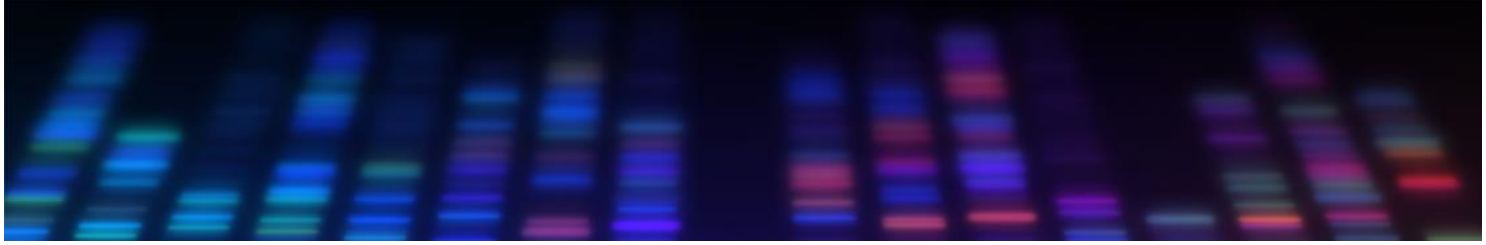
Benchmark your laboratory today!
Contact PCG at mbiskup@purchaseconsultinggroup.com

HOW PCG HELPS LABS

We are laboratorians!

Our lab-experienced consultants offer the following services:

- Operational and Strategic Consulting
- Benchmarking (Labor and non-Labor)
- Labor and Productivity Analysis
- Consolidation Feasibility Analysis
- Operations Assessments
- Inspection Readiness (CAP, TJC, NYS)
- Interim Management
- Leadership Mentoring



LDT COMPLIANCE = MORE STAFF?

Compliance with Stages 1 & 2 may require significant resources.

The Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine (ADLM), formerly AACC, recently surveyed some of its members (June 2024) to measure how prepared laboratories are for the LDT Final Rule.

The results are in, and the laboratory community may not be well positioned to comply with the regulations. ADLM found 73% of responding laboratories (n=124) will not have adequate staff to comply with documentation requirements in Stages 1 & 2 of the Final Rule.

Laboratories will be faced with the decision whether to keep an in-house LDT on the test menu and staff up or refer the LDT to a commercial reference lab. The risk to refer tests will fall to patient care, as turnaround time for referred test results may not be clinically acceptable.

ADLM is using its survey results to petition Congress to act and help laboratories with the FDA Final Rule. Read the letter here - https://www.myadlm.org/Advocacy-and-Outreach/Comment-Letters/2024/LDTs-survey-June-2024.

PCG predicts most hospital laboratories will be affected by the Final Rule, as body fluid chemistry testing is considered an LDT (see PCG Newsletter Issue 1). ADLM uses body fluid testing in its letter to Congress as an example of how this rule will impact patient care.

Labs should start planning now as regulations are effective July 2024.

73% of laboratories will not have enough resources for Stages 1 & 2.
ADLM Survey June 2024

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