

# Survey of Physician Practices in Laboratory Test Ordering and Result Interpretation



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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with the assistance of Altarum Institute, is conducting important research regarding the use of laboratory services in patient care. We are requesting that you help by completing this questionnaire. The questions cover laboratory test selection and result reporting/interpretation. We estimate that it will take approximately 14 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

The findings from the survey will help guide CDC initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical laboratory medicine in serving the needs of primary care physicians.

Your answers will be kept secure, and your name will not be associated with any results.

As a token of our appreciation for your assistance, we will contribute \$10.00 to your choice of one of the charitable organizations listed at the end of the questionnaire.

If you have questions about this study, please contact Tom Wilkinson, Altarum Institute, toll free at (800) 879-6505 x4725 or via email to [tom.wilkinson@altarum.org](mailto:tom.wilkinson@altarum.org).

Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 14 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Information Collection Review Office, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; ATTN: PRA (0920-0893).

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## PLEASE NOTE:

When answering the following questions, please think **only** about **clinical laboratory testing** for **diagnostic purposes**.

When we refer to laboratory tests, we are **not** referring to tissue pathology, imaging, testing for screening purposes, for monitoring chronic disease, or for monitoring drug levels.

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## 1. About Your Practice

▶ Approximately how many patients do you personally see in a typical week? *(Required)* (Screen 1 of 4)

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## 1. About Your Practice

- ▶ Of the 50 patients you see in a typical week, for approximately how many patients do you order diagnostic clinical laboratory tests for a complaint (NOT including patients for whom you order only screening tests, tests for chronic disease monitoring, or drug level monitoring)? *(Required)* (Screen 2 of 4)

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## 1. About Your Practice

Sometimes physicians are uncertain what would be the best clinical laboratory test(s) for diagnosing a patient's problem. For approximately how many patients per **week, month, or year** are you **uncertain** about what would be the best test(s) to **order**? (Screen 3 of 4)

Choose *ONE* timeframe below.

▶ Patients per **week** for whom you are uncertain:

▶ Patients per **month** for whom you are uncertain:

▶ Patients per **year** for whom you are uncertain:

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## 1. About Your Practice

Sometimes after receiving results of diagnostic laboratory tests, physicians are uncertain how to interpret and use the results. For approximately how many patients per **week, month, or year** are you uncertain how to interpret and use clinical laboratory test results? (Screen 4 of 4)

Choose *ONE* timeframe below.

▶ Patients per **week** for whom you are uncertain:

▶ Patients per **month** for whom you are uncertain:

▶ Patients per **year** for whom you are uncertain:

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## 2. Ordering Uncertainty

- ▶ When uncertain what clinical laboratory tests to order for diagnostic (NOT for *screening* or *monitoring*) purposes, how often do you do the following? (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Ask another primary care physician for advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ask a specialist for advice without referring the patient (curbside consult)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Refer the patient to a specialist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review <u>electronic</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review <u>paper</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 2. Ordering Uncertainty

► When uncertain what clinical laboratory tests to order for diagnostic (NOT for *screening* or *monitoring*) purposes, how often do you do the following? (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Ask a laboratory professional (e.g., pathologist, laboratory technologist, etc.) for advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review a practice guideline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait to see how the patient's presentation evolves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional tactic, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the additional tactic on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 2. Ordering Uncertainty - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional tactic you use when you are uncertain what clinical laboratory tests to order for diagnostic purposes.

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### ▶ 3. Ordering Uncertainty

Please rate the helpfulness of each of the following. (Screen 1 of 2)

*Please select one best answer for each of the below ->*

	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Slightly Helpful	Not at All Helpful
Ask another primary care physician for advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ask a specialist for advice without referring the patient (curbside consult)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Refer the patient to a specialist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review <u>electronic</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review <u>paper</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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### ▶ 3. Ordering Uncertainty

Please rate the helpfulness of each of the following. (Screen 2 of 2)

*Please select one best answer for each of the below ->*

	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Slightly Helpful	Not at All Helpful
Ask a laboratory professional (e.g., pathologist, laboratory technologist, etc.) for advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review a practice guideline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wait to see how the patient's presentation evolves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Example Tactic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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#### ▶ 4. Ordering Influences

After you have made the decision to order tests, how important are the following factors in your selection of which diagnostic clinical laboratory tests to order? (Screen 1 of 1)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Slightly Important	Not at All Important
Patient's insurance coverage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient's out of pocket costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient's requests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Practice guidelines (e.g., published by specialty organizations/societies)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clinical pathways developed within your local practice/institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Concerns about potential malpractice liability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Speed of getting results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional factor, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the factor on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 4. Ordering Influences

▶ Please specify the additional factor that is important in your selection of which diagnostic clinical laboratory tests to order.

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## ► 5. Ordering Challenges

Thinking about potential challenges in ordering clinical laboratory tests for diagnostic purposes, please indicate how often each of the following is problematic. (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Different names among laboratories for the same test	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Different tests included in test panels with the same name.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desired tests not available except as part of a panel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty in communicating with laboratory professionals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Different recommendations among relevant practice guidelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ► 5. Ordering Challenges

Thinking about potential challenges in ordering clinical laboratory tests for diagnostic purposes, please indicate how often each of the following is problematic. (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Lack of comparative cost information about alternative tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insurance policies that mandate use of specific laboratories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insurance policies that limit test usage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient's out of pocket costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional challenge, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the challenge on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 5. Ordering Challenges - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional challenge in ordering clinical laboratory tests for diagnostic purposes.

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## ▶ 6. Ordering Challenges

Please rate how problematic each of the following is. (Screen 1 of 2)

*Please select one best answer for each of the below ->*

	Extremely Problematic	Very Problematic	Somewhat Problematic	Slightly Problematic	Not at All Problematic
Different names among laboratories for the same test	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Different tests included in test panels with the same name	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desired test(s) not available except as part of a panel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty in communicating with laboratory professionals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Different recommendations among relevant practice guidelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ▶ 6. Ordering Challenges

Please rate how problematic each of the following is. (Screen 2 of 2)

*Please select one best answer for each of the below ->*

	Extremely Problematic	Very Problematic	Somewhat Problematic	Slightly Problematic	Not at All Problematic
Lack of comparative cost information about alternative tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insurance policies that mandate use of specific laboratories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insurance policies that limit test usage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient's out of pocket costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Example challenge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 7. Interpretation Uncertainty

When you are uncertain about the interpretation of a clinical laboratory test(s) or the test results are inconsistent with your pretest suspected diagnosis, how often do you use the following tactics to resolve the uncertainty? (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Review <u>electronic</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review <u>paper</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Check practice guidelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review patient's history and physical findings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow-up and reassess patient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 7. Interpretation Uncertainty

When you are uncertain about the interpretation of a clinical laboratory test(s) or the test results are inconsistent with your pretest suspected diagnosis, how often do you use the following tactics to resolve the uncertainty? (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Discuss the case with another primary care physician	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discuss the case with a specialist (curbside consult)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Refer the patient to a specialist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contact a laboratory professional (e.g., pathologist, laboratory technologist, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Order additional test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeat the test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional tactic, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the tactic on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 7. Interpretation Uncertainty - Specify

- ▶ Please specify the additional tactic you use when you are uncertain about the interpretation of a clinical laboratory test(s) or the test results are inconsistent with your pretest suspected diagnosis.

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## 8. Interpretation Uncertainty

Please rate the usefulness of each of the following. (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Slightly Useful	Not at All Useful
Review <u>electronic</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review <u>paper</u> reference(s): professional articles, journals, newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Check practice guidelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review patient's history and physical findings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Follow-up and reassess patient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 8. Interpretation Uncertainty

Please rate the usefulness of each of the following. (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Slightly Useful	Not at All Useful
Discuss the case with another primary care physician	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discuss the case with a specialist (curbside consult)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Refer the patient to a specialist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contact a laboratory professional (e.g., pathologist, laboratory technologist, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Order additional test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repeat the test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Example tactic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ► 9. Interpretation Challenges

Thinking about potential challenges in using laboratory test results, please rate how problematic (frequency and/or severity) each of the following is. (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Problematic	Very Problematic	Somewhat Problematic	Slightly Problematic	Not at All Problematic
Not enough information in the laboratory report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too much information in the laboratory report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laboratory report formats difficult to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laboratory-to-laboratory variation in reporting formats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laboratory-to-laboratory variation in normal value ranges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty in communicating with laboratory professionals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ► 9. Interpretation Challenges

Thinking about potential challenges in using laboratory test results, please rate how problematic (frequency and/or severity) each of the following is. (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Problematic	Very Problematic	Somewhat Problematic	Slightly Problematic	Not at All Problematic
Not receiving results in a timely manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Suspected errors in laboratory results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Previous tests results not easily available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Results inconsistent with the patient's symptoms and history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional challenge, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the challenge on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 9. Interpretation Challenges - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional challenge in using laboratory test results.

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## ▶ 10. Test Utilization Enablers

Methods have been developed to assist physicians in more effective use of diagnostic laboratory testing. Please indicate which of these methods is available to you. Depending on your practice environment, there may be overlap in the definition of some of these methods. (Screen 1 of 2)

Please check the box to the right of each method that is available to you ->

Structured Requisitions: test ordering is guided by organizing tests into panels based on medical specialty or condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clinical Algorithms/Clinical Pathways: test ordering is guided, based on the patient's presentation, by decision trees within your local practice/institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines: test ordering is guided, based on the patient's presentation, by decision trees published by specialty organizations/societies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reflex Testing: pre-authorized follow-up testing that depends on results of initial tests	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic Prompts: pop-up messages about the appropriate test(s) for the patient's complaint or suspected diagnosis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physician directly orders test(s) in computer, which <u>provides electronic</u> suggestions for appropriate test(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physician directly orders test(s) in computer, which <u>does not provide</u> electronic suggestions for appropriate test(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## ▶ 10. Test Utilization Enablers

Please indicate which of these methods is available to you. Depending on your practice environment, there may be overlap in the definition of some of these methods. (Screen 2 of 2)

Please check the box to the right of each method that is available to you ->

Trending of Laboratory Results: graphical presentation of results over time	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretative Comments: written documentation included with test results that provides additional information on the meaning and/or follow-up for the results	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated laboratory phone line for questions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information about Test Performance Characteristics: sensitivity, specificity, likelihood ratios	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional method, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify this method on the next screen.)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## 10. Test Utilization Enablers - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional method available to assist you in more effective use of diagnostic laboratory testing.

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## ▶ 11. Test Utilization Enablers

How often do you use each of the following? (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Structured Requisitions: test ordering is guided by organizing tests into panels based on medical specialty or condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clinical Algorithms/Clinical Pathways: test ordering is guided, based on the patient's presentation, by decision trees within your local practice/institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guidelines: test ordering is guided, based on the patient's presentation, by decision trees published by specialty organizations/societies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reflex Testing: pre-authorized follow-up testing that depends on results of initial tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electronic Prompts: pop-up messages about the appropriate test(s) for the patient's complaint or suspected diagnosis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physician directly orders test(s) in computer, which <u>provides electronic</u> suggestions for appropriate test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physician directly orders test(s) in computer, which <u>does not provide</u> electronic suggestions for appropriate test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ▶ 11. Test Utilization Enablers

How often do you use each of the following? (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Trending of Laboratory Results: graphical presentation of results over time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretative Comments: written documentation included with test results that provides additional information on the meaning and/or follow-up for the results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated laboratory phone line for questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about Test Performance Characteristics: sensitivity, specificity, likelihood ratios	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Example method	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ▶ 12. Test Utilization Enablers

Please rate the usefulness of each of the following. (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Slightly Useful	Not at All Useful
Structured Requisitions: test ordering is guided by organizing tests into panels based on medical specialty or condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clinical Algorithms/Clinical Pathways: test ordering is guided, based on the patient's presentation, by decision trees within your local practice/institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guidelines: test ordering is guided, based on the patient's presentation, by decision trees published by specialty organizations/societies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reflex Testing: pre-authorized follow-up testing that depends on results of initial tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electronic Prompts: pop-up messages about the appropriate test(s) for the patient's complaint or suspected diagnosis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physician directly orders test(s) in computer, which <u>provides electronic</u> suggestions for appropriate test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physician directly orders test(s) in computer, which <u>does not provide</u> electronic suggestions for appropriate test(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ▶ 12. Test Utilization Enablers

Please rate the usefulness of each of the following. (Screen 2 of 2)

*Please select one best answer for each of the below ->*

	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Slightly Useful	Not at All Useful
Trending of Laboratory Results: graphical presentation of results over time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretative Comments: written documentation included with test results that provides additional information on the meaning and/or follow-up for the results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated laboratory phone line for questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about Test Performance Characteristics: sensitivity, specificity, likelihood ratios	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Example method	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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### ▶ 13. Laboratory Consultation

How often do you initiate communication with laboratory professionals concerning each of the following? (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Assistance with appropriate test ordering based on patient's symptoms and history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technical assistance regarding sample collection or submission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Location of desired test(s) within a laboratory's test menu	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preliminary information when test result cycle is prolonged	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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### ▶ 13. Laboratory Consultation

How often do you initiate communication with laboratory professionals concerning each of the following? (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Daily	At Least Once per Week	At Least Once per Month	At Least Once per Year	Never
Status of missing results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accuracy of test results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical or scientific opinion of significance of results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assistance with follow-up testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional reason, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the reason on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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### 13. Laboratory Consultation - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional reason you initiate communication with laboratory professionals.

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## ▶ 14. Laboratory Consultation

Please rate the helpfulness of communication with laboratory professionals regarding each of the following. (Screen 1 of 2)

*Please select one best answer for each of the below ->*

	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Slightly Helpful	Not at All Helpful
Assistance with appropriate test ordering based on patient's symptoms and history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technical assistance regarding sample collection or submission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Location of desired test(s) within a laboratory's test menu	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preliminary information when test result cycle is prolonged	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ▶ 14. Laboratory Consultation

Please rate the helpfulness of communication with laboratory professionals regarding each of the following. (Screen 2 of 2)

*Please select one best answer for each of the below ->*

	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Slightly Helpful	Not at All Helpful
Status of missing results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accuracy of test results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical or scientific opinion of significance of results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assistance with follow-up testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Example reason	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ▶ 15. Laboratory Consultation

There can be numerous reasons why physicians do not consult frequently with laboratory professionals. Please indicate the importance of each of the following reasons within your own experience. (Screen 1 of 1)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Important Reason	Very Important Reason	Somewhat Important Reason	Slightly Important Reason	Not an Important Reason at All
Do not know whom to contact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too difficult to get through to laboratory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too difficult to contact person who can answer my questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do not have a working relationship with laboratory professionals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Previous experience suggests unreliable information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional reason, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the reason on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 15. Laboratory Consultation - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional reason you do not consult frequently with laboratory professionals.

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## ▶ 16. New Test Awareness

New diagnostic clinical laboratory tests emerge from research frequently, adding to the thousands of tests available. What sources of information about new tests are most useful to you? (Screen 1 of 1)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Slightly Useful	Not at All Useful
Laboratory sales representatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laboratory pathologists or scientists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colleagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Continuing medical education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Printed professional articles, journals, and newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electronic professional articles, journals, newsletters, and e-mail notification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional source, if applicable. (You will be asked to specify the source on the next screen.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 16. New Test Awareness - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional source of information about new tests that is useful to you.

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## ▶ 17. My Diagnostic Evaluation Processes

When faced with diagnostic uncertainty (difficult or unusual case), please indicate the frequency with which you use each of the following approaches. (Screen 1 of 1)

*Please rank each of the five approaches below.*

*1 = my most frequently used approach*

*2 = my second most frequently used approach*

*3 = my third most frequently used approach*

*4 = my fourth most frequently used approach*

*5 = my least frequently used approach*

Order a panel of standard tests	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review reference materials before ordering tests	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask a colleague before ordering tests	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refer the patient to a specialist	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follow-up and discuss with patient	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## ▶ 18. My Diagnostic Evaluation Processes

For each of the following statements, please indicate how accurately it describes you. (Screen 1 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Well	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Slightly Well	Not at All Well
I am concerned about over-testing my patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about under-testing my patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I typically use a core set of 20 or fewer clinical laboratory diagnostic tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am always looking for information on new tests and how to incorporate them into my practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I use electronic resources (e.g., <i>UpToDate</i> , <i>Dynamed</i> , <i>WebMD</i> , etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I always double-check with my resources or with another physician if I have any doubts about my decision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have worked out an effective way to access and utilize laboratory pathologists and scientists as a resource	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## ▶ 18. My Diagnostic Evaluation Processes

For each of the following statements, please indicate how accurately it describes you. (Screen 2 of 2)

Please select one best answer for each of the below ->

	Extremely Well	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Slightly Well	Not at All Well
I feel stress when I am uncertain which test(s) to order or when I have difficulty interpreting tests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be reluctant to disclose my uncertainty about test ordering and/or interpretation to others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think it would be a weakness to seek help in making decisions about test ordering or result interpretation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Even when I am confident in my pretest diagnosis, I keep thinking "what else could it be"	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional statement, if applicable. <i>(You will be asked to specify the statement on the next screen.)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## 18. My Diagnostic Evaluation Processes - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional statement that describes you.

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## 19. Practice Characteristics

How many different laboratories does your office use, in each of the following categories? (Screen 1 of 1)

*Please enter the appropriate number in each box below.*

▶ Number of commercial laboratories used by your office

▶ Number of physician office laboratories used by your office, including your own, if applicable

▶ Number of hospital laboratories used by your office

▶ Number of additional type of laboratory used by your office, if applicable. *(You will be asked to specify the type on the next screen.)*

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## 19. Practice Characteristics - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional type of laboratory your office uses.

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## Demographic Information

(Screen 1 of 6)

▶ What is your gender?

- Male  
 Female

▶ In what year were you born?

19

▶ What is the zip code of your primary practice location?

▶ How many years have you been in practice?

▶ What is your medical specialty? *(Select all that apply.)*

- Internal Medicine  
 Family Practice  
 Other specialty *(You will be asked to specify the specialty on the next screen.)*

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## Demographic Information - Specify

▶ Please specify your medical specialty.

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## Demographic Information

(Screen 2 of 6)

▶ Are you board certified?

- Yes
- No

▶ What is your medical degree?

- M.D.
- D.O.

▶ Does your medical group have more than one practice site?

- Yes
- No

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## Demographic Information

(Screen 3 of 6)

▶ What is the total number of family practice or internal medicine physicians at your practice site?

▶ What is the total number of family practice or internal medicine physicians in your medical group?

▶ What is the total number of specialists at your practice site?

▶ What is the total number of specialists in your medical group?

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## Demographic Information

(Screen 4 of 6)

### ► What is your practice ownership?

- Physician or group of physicians
- Hospital
- Healthcare organization larger than one hospital
- Academic institution
- Additional type of ownership, if applicable. *(You will be asked to specify the type on the next screen.)*

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## Demographic Information - Specify

▶ Please specify your additional type of practice ownership.

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## Demographic Information

(Screen 5 of 6)

► Of all the tests that you order, what is the percentage breakdown? *(Must add to 100%)*

Diagnostic	<input type="text"/>
Routine screening	<input type="text"/>
Chronic disease monitoring	<input type="text"/>
Drug level monitoring	<input type="text"/>
Additional type of test, if applicable. <i>(You will be asked to specify the type on the next screen.)</i>	<input type="text"/>
Total: <b>0%</b>	

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## Demographic Information - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional type of test that you order.

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## Demographic Information

(Screen 6 of 6)

▶ **Approximate insurance status of your patient population.** *(Must add to 100%)*

Private insurance	<input type="text"/>
Medicare	<input type="text"/>
Medicaid	<input type="text"/>
Uninsured	<input type="text"/>
Additional insurance status, if applicable. <i>(You will be asked to specify the status on the next screen.)</i>	<input type="text"/>
Total: <b>0%</b>	

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## Demographic Information - Specify

▶ Please specify the additional insurance status of your patient population.

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## General Comments

- ▶ Please share any other comments you have about your challenges in clinical laboratory test ordering and/or result interpretation, in addition to processes that have been helpful to you in managing these challenges.

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## We are grateful for your participation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention thank you for your cooperation in completing this important survey. As a gesture of appreciation, we would like to contribute \$10.00 to your choice of one of the charitable organizations listed below. Please indicate your selection.

▶ Please select one organization to receive a \$10.00 donation.

- American Cancer Society *(Dedicated to eliminating cancer.)*
- American Red Cross *(Helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.)*
- American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals *(We are their voice.)*
- March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation *(Working together for stronger, healthier babies.)*
- The Nature Conservancy *(Protecting Nature. Preserving life.)*

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## Suggestions for Improvement

- ▶ You have reached the end of the survey. Thank you very much for your valuable assistance. Before you leave, please give us just a little more feedback on the questionnaire itself. We'd like to know if you understood all the questions; if the survey was well-designed; if you have suggestions for improving our study. Any comments are welcome!

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Please click the button below to close this browser window.

Thank you.