The Can (thecan.labutilization.org):
A repository of decision support rules relating to laboratory tests
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Project goal
To develop a self-sustaining repository of best-evidence CDS rules for laboratory test ordering and interpretation through networking and collaboration
• The repository is named “The Can”

Background
• Clinical decision support (CDS) has an important role in improving quality and appropriateness of patient care
• CDS rules for laboratory test ordering and interpretation are needed
• Challenges:
  - Medicine and laboratory practices are constantly changing
  - Organizations lack resources and funding to create a validated/reviewed list of CDS rules on their own
  - Finding a list of rules or recommendations is difficult
  - A method for creating, sharing, and updating CDS rules related to laboratory testing is needed

Methods
Stage 1 –
• Create a web-based repository for laboratory test rules
  - Priorities in access and usability
  - Helps guide rule development process
  - Rules require references
  - Populate the repository with rules
    - Use a layered framework1
    - Peer review for validation
  - Recruit subject-matter experts (SMEs)
    - Interest in laboratory testing or lab utilization
    - Accomplished through:
      - Scientific meetings
      - Professional panels
  - Peer-reviewed literature publications
  - SMEs to recruit others, contribute to, and use the repository
• SME input and use will be driven by:
  - Repository content due to the difficulty of finding CDS lab rules from other sources
  - The common rule repository developed will:
    - Empower SMEs (and their organizations) to use and trust the repository
    - Increase collaboration between organizations
    - Keep ‘The Can’ flexible and adaptive to user needs

Stage 2 –
• Develop a method for making the CDS rules computable
  - Map to terminology standards
  - Validation and curation process
While not currently computable, ‘The Can’ provides a repository for sharing CDS rules and promotes future interoperability.

Conclusions
• Over 100 validated rules
• More than 20 collaborators
• Nine collaborating organizations
• Currently a content repository in Stage 1
• Active pilot implementation of a subset of rules
• ‘The Can’ is a valuable resource for laboratory CDS rules
• For more information, and to participate visit: thecan.labutilization.org

References

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Figure 1. Sample rules from “The Can”

Figure 2. Project stages for “The Can”

1. Stage 1: Developing a web-based repository for laboratory test rules
2. Stage 2: Making the CDS rules computable