I. PURPOSE: To have the Medical Staff approve only laboratory reflex testing which meets medical necessity, and is in accordance with Medicare, Medicaid, and other payor requirements.

II. POLICY: Laboratory reflex testing must be approved by the Medical Staff on an annual basis as evidenced in the Medical Executive Committee minutes. Only those tests listed in the minutes may be reflexed.

III. PROCEDURE:

A. Implementation and Annual Review:

1. Laboratory personnel must identify tests that may be reflexed when the results of the initial test may warrant additional testing.

2. Laboratory personnel must consult with the Medical Director, Pathologist(s), or Clinical Consultant to determine specific needs for reflex testing.

3. Laboratory/Pathology personnel must present all routine standing orders, including reflex testing, to the Medical Staff on an annual basis and obtain input and approval.

4. The specific reflex test documentation must be reflected in the annual Medical Executive Committee meeting minutes.

5. Laboratory personnel must review and make sure applicable revisions are made to the chargemaster and related Laboratory and Order Entry masterfiles/dictionaries. If the laboratory information system has the ability to perform charge rules, reflex tests should be defined such that duplicate tests are not billed and comprehensive coding occurs.

For example, a physician orders CBC w/Differential, and the results indicate a Manual Diff must be performed. Therefore, the charge rule should override the charge associated with CPT code 85025 - Automated CBC w/ Auto Diff, and replace it with CPT code 85023 - Automated CBC w/ Manual Diff.
6. All staff/physicians responsible for ordering, testing, charging, or billing laboratory services will be educated on the contents of this policy.

B. Daily:

Laboratory personnel will perform reflex testing only as defined in the Annual Medical Executive meeting minutes.

C. Definition:

Reflex Testing: Testing which is performed as a result of INITIAL test results which are used to further identify significant diagnostic information required for appropriate patient care.