

Quality of Laboratory Request Forms Received at the Chemical Pathology Laboratory, National Cancer Institute Maharagama

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Laboratory requests forms act as the communication link between the requesting physician and the laboratory. Inadequate information and errors in the filling out process can significantly impact the quality of laboratory request forms resulting in pre-analytical errors which effects the clinical decision and ultimately the treatment outcome. Assessing and evaluating laboratory request forms is an important aspect in providing good clinical care. The aim of this study was to assess the quality of the laboratory requests forms brought by OPD patients to the chemical pathology laboratory at National Cancer Institute Maharagama. A cross sectional descriptive study was carried out on 150 randomly selected request forms for blood investigations and urine analysis issued by the OPD. The information obtained from the request forms was tabulated and analyzed using the SPSS Version 20. Parameters assessed were the presence or absence of the patient 's full name, age, serial number, issuing date, brief history, doctor 's signature and official seal, request priority and the legibility of the handwriting. The most frequently mentioned component on the request form was the serial number (147 - 97.3%) and the most frequently omitted component was request priority (96 -64%). Eighty-three (55.3%) of the request forms had fairly legible handwriting and 27 (18%) of request forms had good handwriting. Following the data analysis, we were able to conclude that majority of the request forms (75.3%) were filled adequately and 73.3% of the request forms were legible.

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