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[**Weekly Relays User Guide**](https://ispace.utmb.edu/xythoswfs/webview/_xy-12470404_1)

**TOPICS LEGEND**

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| C:\Users\krhensle\Desktop\SMALL LOGO (2).jpg | | WEEKLY RELAYS | | **April 22, 2021** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
|  | | | **Monthly financial results as of March 31**: For the month of March, UTMB’s adjusted margin was a $20.3 million, which was $20.9 million favorable to planned results. Year-to-date, UTMB’s adjusted margin was a loss of $4.3 million, which was $42.5 million favorable to planned results. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to manage expenses and improve the efficiency of our work to ensure the long-term success of UTMB’s mission. **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT Latest Health Care Unmasked segment:** During the April 21 conversation with host TJ Aulds, UTMB’s Mari Robinson, director of Telehealth, and Oliver Black, a senior systems analyst with the Health Innovations Department, discussed telemedicine and its impact on health care. They also provided an overview of the UT Virtual Health Network, a program that helps University of Texas health care providers leverage available technology to bring expanded access to clinical care to people in the most remote locations. Dr. Alexander Perez, surgeon and professor with the Department of Surgery, also participated to shed some light on UTMB’s tele-mentoring surgery program. To view the full discussion, visit <https://utmb.us/4v9>.  **LEADERS**  **Crucial Conversations training:** Crucial Conversations training is available to help UTMB’s leaders develop the dialogue skills needed to communicate effectively in all situations. Leaders who take part in the training will learn how to:   * Achieve agreement on important matters * Identify their own communication style when under stress * Share difficult messages and encourage others to do the same * Bring staff’s best ideas to the surface for improved decision-making * Resolve disagreements and foster teamwork   New training cohorts will begin April 28 and April 30 via Zoom video conferencing. Visit <https://utmb.us/4v6> for more information about the training and registration instructions.  **Weekly Wellness Recap:** Shared by the UTMB RISE (Resilience in Stressful Events) Task Force, these tips are just one way we can all work to stay emotionally healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are this week’s tips:   * Schedule time today to find awe in nature. * Watch an uplifting movie or read something that makes you smile. * Ask for help today if you need it. * Be open to talking about mental health; help fight the stigma. * Teach kids and families that kindness is good for their health. * Actively make a healthy meal choice today. * Reward yourself today for a healthy habit you choose to do. * Appreciate the richness and emotion that people’s eyes and tone of voice convey today. | |
| OPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **The Joint Commission Questions of the Week—Waived Testing:**  **What is a CLIA waived laboratory test**?  ***Answer:*** *A Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waived test is categorized as a simple laboratory test that has a relatively small risk of an erroneous result. However, it is important to recognize that errors can occur anywhere in the testing process, particularly when the manufacturer's instructions are not followed. Whole-blood glucose and urine pregnancy tests are examples of waived tests.*  **How is competency for waived testing point-of-care testing (POCT) assessed?**  ***Answer:*** *Operators who pass initial waived-test training assessments are deemed competent and signed off to perform patient testing. Assessment is required annually to evaluate continued competence to perform the waived test.*  *The Joint Commission elements of competency for waived tests must include at least two of the following:*  *•     Direct observation of routine patient test performance*  *•     Successful performance of an “unknown” sample*  *•     Quality control performance*  *•     100% score on a written test specific to the test method*  **You completed a glucose waived test competency at the Galveston Campus.  If you float to the League City Campus, do you need to complete another glucose waived test competency?**  ***Answer:*** *Yes!  The Joint Commission requires assessment of waived testing competency onsite under* ***each*** *specific CLIA number, which is different for each UTMB campus.  A waived testing competency for glucose testing must be completed at the League City Campus where the patient testing will be performed.*  **Where can you find waived testing procedures, forms, competencies, and safety data sheets?**  ***Answer:*** *Navigate to the UTMB Health intranet home page and click on the “Resources” tab.  Under the Clinical section, click on “Point of Care Testing.”*  **Provost’s Lecture Series set for May 14:** The Provost’s Lecture Series will host a virtual talk by Ana Núñez, MD, FACP, of the University of Minnesota, on “Radical Belonging and Courageous Leadership to Transform and Sustain Inclusive Excellence in Medicine,” Friday, May 14 at noon. The lecture will explore mission-specific elements of diversity, equity and inclusion; explain factors preventing and enabling change; and provide strategies and tips to promote dynamic, inclusive change. The talk will be followed by a Q&A session and breakout discussions led by the Academic Enterprise Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Dr. Núñez is professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine; vice dean for diversity, equity and inclusion for the U of M Medical School; and integration strategist in the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Join via Zoom: <https://utmb.us/4u5>.  **Thayer Awards for Excellence in Teaching:** Recently selected by Osler Student Scholars in the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine, these residents exemplify sound scientific knowledge, compassion toward patients, and dedication to learning and teaching.  The honorees will be recognized during their respective department’s ward rounds. For more information log on to: <https://www.utmb.edu/osler/awards/thayer-award-for-excellence>.   * Dr. Elizabeth Davis – Department of Internal Medicine * Dr. Elias Farran –  Department of Surgery, Division of Urology * Dr. Reshma Patel – Department of Pediatrics * Dr. Patrick Sweet – Department of Internal Medicine * Dr. Andrew Vela – Department of Internal Medicine | | | **(T/F) Waived test controls only expire on the manufacturer’s expiration date stated on the outside of the control container.**  ***Answer:****False! Some control expiration dates are impacted by the date the control container was opened.  For instance, glucose controls have a three-month expiration date after opening (unless the manufacturer’s expiration date is shorter).  Each waived test control container must be labeled with the open date and new expiration date if opening the container affects the expiration date stated by the manufacturer.  Refer to the waived test standard operating procedure if unsure of the control expiration requirements for the waived test.*  **Change in COVID isolation precautions for new variants:** As a result of the high contagiousness of the UK variant of COVID-19 and its prevalence in our region, enhanced respiratory precautions are being implemented for unvaccinated individuals caring for or evaluating patients for COVID-19. For more information, read the latest message from the COVID-19 Clinical Task force online at <https://utmb.us/4v5>.  **GHX/Medline Conversion—Training Now Available:** On April 12, UTMB transitioned from Owens & Minor to Medline as our medical distributor. If you enter requisitions for Acute Care or Non-Acute Care (Clinics) and have not attended or would like to attend a related training, please sign up for a class online at <https://innovation.utmb.edu/TrainingGateway>. | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?** UTMB’s Community & Population Health team has initiated a large-scale outreach initiative to close gaps in care, such as routine wellness appointments. In addition to messaging in MyChart and outreach phone calls, the team will now also use text messages to contact patients and remind them that they or someone in their family is due for an annual check-up with contact information to schedule an appointment. So far, more than 37,000 adult patients and more than 18,000 pediatric patients—who will be contacted via their listed guardian—have been identified for the first round of outreach. This initiative not only supports UTMB’s efforts under the Texas 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver but also helps ensure that UTMB Health provides the Best Care possible. | |