

Laboratory System

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Standing Order Clarification for As Needed Orders

Effective Date: Immediate

The laboratory cannot accept standing orders with a frequency ordered as “PRN,” “As Needed,” or “Indefinite.” Standing orders must include either:

- A frequency (interval) and a count (e.g., Weekly, 8 times), or
- A frequency (interval) and a duration (e.g., Weekly for 2 months)

These requirements provide clear guidance to support medical necessity, prevent misuse, and ensure compliance with federal regulations. This guidance aligns with requirements established by the Office of Inspector General (OIG). (Federal Register/Vol. 63, No. 163/Monday, August 24, 1998. [98-22559.pdf](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/1998/08/24/98-22559))

Examples of Invalid Order Wording and Acceptable Order Format*

Current Invalid Order Wording*	Why It Is Not Valid	Example of Acceptable Order Format*
“4 times”	Frequency not specified	“Weekly, 4 times” or “Monthly, 4 times”
“PRN for 2 weeks”	Frequency not specified	“Daily for 2 weeks” or “Weekly for 2 weeks”
“As Needed for 1 year”	Frequency not specified	“Weekly for 1 year” or “Daily, 365 days”
“Weekly”	Duration not specified	“Weekly for 6 months”
“May repeat x4”	Frequency not specified	“Weekly, 4 times”
“52 occurrences”	Frequency not specified	“Weekly for 1 year” or “Daily, 52 occurrences”

***Examples shown for illustration purposes only. The ordering physician or APP is responsible for selecting the frequency, count, and duration based on the patient’s clinical condition, medical necessity, and intended testing plan. These examples are intended to demonstrate acceptable order format requirements and are not recommendations for patient care.**

Questions?

Please contact your local Laboratory Customer Service Department or Laboratory Account Manager:

- Southeast Michigan: 800.551.0488
- Southwest Michigan: 269.983.8311 ext 1
- West Michigan: 616.774.7721