

WELFORD CHART NOTES NEWSLETTER

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CUSTOMIZE YOUR PATIENT LAB LETTERS *(User's Manual, pgs. 989-991)*

Last month we explained how to use Patient Lab Letters. This month we will cover some more advanced topics, showing how you can customize their content to suit your needs. Two ways to do so are to edit your own Explanations and to create Patient Lab Letter Templates.

WRITE YOUR OWN EXPLANATIONS

Explanations are bodies of text attached to each test result that inform the patient about the nature and significance of the test. The program comes with these, but let's write our own:

1. Press Print\Patient Lab Letters\OPTIONS\Explanation Editor.
2. For **Test Name**, enter BUN.
3. Since you like the **General Comment**, leave that alone.
4. However, you want a more detailed explanation for **Normal Comment**. On the right-hand half of the window (**User-Written Explanations**), click inside the **Normal Comment** box.
5. Press **Copy** to copy the **Program Explanations – Normal Comment** into this box.
6. Change the **User-Written Explanations – Normal Comment** to read "Your BUN is normal. This means that your kidneys are working properly and you are not dehydrated."

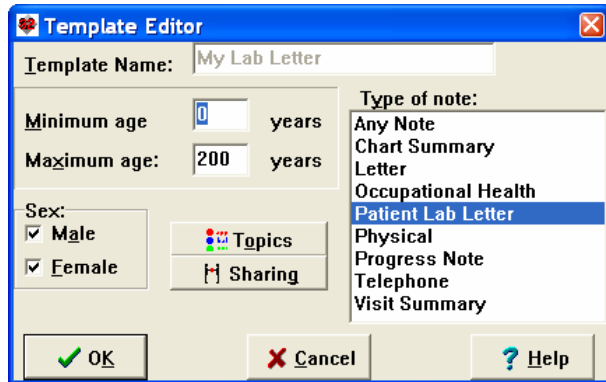
The screenshot shows the 'Patient Lab Letter Explanations' dialog box. The 'Test Name' field contains 'BUN'. The 'Program Explanations' column has the following text in its sections: 'General Comment: BUN (blood urea nitrogen) is a test of kidney function.', 'Normal Comment: Your BUN is normal. This means that your kidneys are working properly.', 'High Comment: Your BUN is high. This may mean that your kidneys are not working properly, but it might also be high if you are dehydrated or are taking water pills.', and 'Low Comment:'. The 'User-Written Explanations' column has the following text: 'General Comment: [checkbox] No Comment', 'Normal Comment: [checkbox] No Comment Your BUN is normal. This means that your kidneys are working properly and you are not dehydrated.', 'High Comment: [checkbox] No Comment', and 'Low Comment: [checkbox] No Comment'. The 'Normal Comment' in the 'User-Written Explanations' column is selected. At the top right, there are two buttons: 'All' (green) and 'None' (red). At the bottom, there are buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Help', 'Copy', and 'Default'.

7. You can edit any of the other Comments if you wish. The program uses your User-Written Explanations in place of the Program Explanations wherever they exist. Otherwise, it uses the Program Explanations, unless you check the **No Comment** box. In that case, the program inserts no Explanation at all.
8. Press **OK** to store your revised Comments.

WRITE YOUR OWN PATIENT LAB LETTER TEMPLATES (User's Manual, pgs. 992-993)

Now, let's create a Patient Lab Letter Template:

1. Press Libraries\Templates\Add.
2. Specify a **Template Name**, like "My Lab Letter".
3. Specify a **Minimum Age, Maximum Age**, and **Sex** if you want the Template restricted to certain ages and/or genders.
4. Set **Type of Note** to **Patient Lab Letter**. (You must have at least one User-Defined Document Type for this to appear in version 5.1; it appears for all users in version 5.2).
5. Press **OK** to edit your Template.
6. Type in the content of your Template and press <F10> to store it.



When editing your Template, you will want to use the @LabSince @function with various flags in order to bring patient data into the letter. For example, you may wish to use:

@LabSince1month_COLUMNS_FLAG_RESULT_RANGE_NOTEXTRESULT_GENEXP_NORMALEXP_ABNORMALEXP (User's Manual, pg. 965)

This @function is interpreted as follows:

@LabSince1month:	The patient's Lab Book results for the past month.
_COLUMNS:	put the data into columns
_FLAG:	include the Abnormal Flag (abnormal, normal, etc.)
_RESULT:	show the result itself
_RANGE:	show the normal range for the test (if numeric)
_NOTEXTRESULT:	do not include the result if the test is textual
_GENEXP:	include General Explanations about the test
_NORMALEXP:	include Explanations if the result is Normal
_ABNORMALEXP:	include Explanations if the result is not Normal

FIND PATIENTS ON ROSIGLITAZONE (AVANDIA)

You can quickly locate all of the patients in your practice on a specific drug (such as rosiglitazone) using Rule Reminders\Scan, using the Generic Report Generator, or using the Prescription Log. You can read how to do this in the April, 2000 *Newsletter*. If you want to restrict the search to active patients, use "ACTIVE" in the Generic Report Generator Condition box (and Terms To Search For: ROSIGLITAZONE, By List – Current), or as part of your Rule Reminder Rule ("Active and on rosiglitazone").

NEWS ON UPCOMING VERSIONS

We are putting the finishing touches on version 5.2. It has dozens of exciting new features which we will unveil next month.

SEND US YOUR TIPS

If you have tips, shortcuts, questions, or suggestions for future newsletter topics, please send them to us at:

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