

TASK – CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT: DRUG MONITORING WARNING

You have been treating Sarah, a 34-year old female, for depression with lithium 300 mg 4x/day for several years. Sarah comes into your clinic today, requesting a refill of her lithium prescription. While you are well aware that patients on lithium require at least yearly monitoring of their lithium levels, you do not realize that it has been more than one year since Sarah's last laboratory test. After discussing various aspects of her depression with her, you quickly decide to refill her prescription. This task tests whether or not an alert or reminder is presented to indicate a new lithium level test is needed.

1. Verify Sarah's current medication list. Check to ensure that she has been on lithium continuously for over 3 years. Ensure that lithium 20 mg / day is shown.
2. Refill her prescription for lithium. Verbally state when you believe you have successfully completed this task.
3. If, at any point, an alert or reminder prompts you regarding the need for a new lithium test, accept the recommendation and go to the laboratory order entry screen. After you have entered a request for a new lithium level, verbally state when you believe you have successfully completed this task. If necessary, complete the refill process and verbally state when you believe you have completed this task.

Table 1. Lithium Order	
Drug:	Lithium
Strength:	300 mg tablet
Take:	1 tablet, 4x / day

Table 2. Lithium level Order	
Test:	Lithium
When:	ASAP
reason:	Monitor lithium levels or associate with Depression from problem list