

# [How two labs took on in-house sequencing](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
December 19, 2025

Bringing next-generation sequencing (NGS) in-house can be approached in two ways: a rapid, comprehensive implementation or a gradual, progressive build. Florida Cancer Specialists opted for a rapid approach, starting with a complex pancancer solid tumor panel, which facilitated the addition of smaller assays.



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# [Working out AI validation and implementation](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
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The CAP Artificial Intelligence Committee is developing a guide for laboratories on implementing AI, covering the entire machine learning life cycle. While laboratories can begin using AI now, they must ensure full validation, even for FDA-approved tools, due to potential biases and population drift.



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# [Respiratory season panels, subtypes, and a](#)

## [new Survey](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
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The absence of CDC surveillance data due to the government shutdown has created uncertainty about the severity and impact of the current respiratory virus season. While regional public health surveillance provides some insights, concerns remain about the potential for a severe season, exacerbated by vaccine hesitancy and changes in vaccine guidance.



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## [Privacy, cost, safety—drone use for patient samples](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
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Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital piloted a program using drones for transporting patient samples and blood products between the hospital and cancer center. The program, using Valqari drones, achieved a 100% success rate in delivering 303 packages without any damage or temperature fluctuations.



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# [Why and how lab curbed its CBC and diff orders](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
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Massachusetts General Hospital implemented a clinical decision support solution to reduce unnecessary CBC and differential orders, particularly for inpatients. The solution involved an interruptive alert that targeted daily, more than daily, and as-needed orders, recommending alternative orders like CBCs without differentials.



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# [Medicare physician fee schedule: Modest Medicare pay increase offset by 'efficiency adjustment'](#)

written by CAP TODAY  
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Pathologists will receive a 0.34% payment rate increase in the 2026 Medicare physician fee schedule, offset by a 2.5% efficiency adjustment. The College of American Pathologists (CAP) opposes this adjustment, arguing it inaccurately reflects the value of pathology and laboratory medicine and ignores the increasing complexity of medical practice.



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# Identification of rare *PML::RARA* variant missed by traditional molecular testing

written by CAP TODAY  
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A 21-year-old male with a history of acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) presented with symptoms suggestive of relapse. While standard tests like qRT-PCR and amplicon-based sequencing failed to detect the *PML::RARA* fusion, AMP NGS revealed an atypical bcr2 transcript with a novel breakpoint.



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# LIS vendors, lab experts on standards and stakeholders

written by CAP TODAY  
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A roundtable discussion on laboratory information systems (LIS) focused on the application of AI in lab workflows. Participants emphasized the need for AI to be used as a targeted tool to augment human work, highlighting its potential in streamlining documentation, coding, and data extraction.



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# Roche launches next-gen Cobas 6800/8800 systems, software

written by CAP TODAY  
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Dec. 18, 2025—Roche launched Cobas 6800/8800 systems version 2.0 and software version 2.0.1, following FDA 510(k) clearance earlier this year.



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# Challenges, and opportunities, abound

written by CAP TODAY  
December 19, 2025

December 2025—When this column comes out, it will be nearly the end of 2025. It's a good time to think about the challenges we have been facing—and the opportunities we will have in the coming years to address them. The CAP is no stranger to challenges, and neither are its members. There's a lot going on in the world and in the health care markets that directly affects what we do. I believe that if we face these challenges head-on, we can find ways to improve laboratory quality and our ability to care for patients, all while strengthening the CAP as an organization.



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