

Laboratory Testing Turn-Around Time by Ordering Priority Guidance

Laboratory testing is frequently used to guide diagnostic investigations and therapeutic interventions for patients. The results of some testing are required immediately while others may not be needed as rapidly. In addition, there are constraints on the time in which laboratory tests results are available after the sample is received (“Turn-Around Time” or TAT) due to the requirements of the testing or sample preparation itself. Tests which are not performed at Upstate and therefore must be sent to an outside laboratory (“Send-out” tests) have a turn-around time dictated by that outside laboratory and by transit time.

Ordering:

Laboratory tests may be ordered with different priority. The general expectation of turn-around time as measured from the time of laboratory receipt of the specimen for each prioritization is listed below. If a sample is sent to the lab for a test at a slower priority but is then recognized to be needed more urgently, contact the laboratory to request that the testing be performed urgently. The testing will be performed as quickly as possible after this request is received.

For Chemistry, Hematology, and Blood Bank tests:

Priority	Approximate turn-around time frame
STAT	60 minutes from receipt (unless otherwise noted in the table below)
CODE	Same as STAT above
Prior to Discharge	2 hours from receipt
Normal	4 hours from receipt
Send-out	Multiple days; TAT is test and laboratory specific

For *non-culture* Microbiology tests:

Priority	Approximate turn-around time frame
STAT	2 hours from receipt
CODE	Same as STAT above
Prior to Discharge	2 hours from receipt
Normal	24 hours from receipt
Send-out	Multiple days; TAT is test and laboratory specific

Note: For tests on samples collected at Community Campus AND are performed at the Downtown lab, but not performed at the Community lab, the TAT will be increased by approximately 2 hours to allow for transportation from Community to Downtown.

Not all tests are available as STAT, CODE, or Prior to Discharge. Only the tests listed below are available as STAT, CODE, or Prior to Discharge priority:

General Chemistry			
Test name	Specimen	Epic code	Comment
Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)	Blood	LAB132	
Albumin	Blood	LAB45	
Alkaline phosphatase	Blood	LAB112	
Ammonia	Blood	LAB47	
Amylase	Blood	LAB48	
Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)	Blood	LAB131	
Basic Metabolic panel	Blood	LAB15	

Laboratory Testing Turn-Around Time by Priority Guidance

Beta-HCG	Blood	LAB2551	
	Urine	LAB5061	STAT – 30 min
Beta-hydroxy butyrate	Blood	LAB2571	
Bicarbonate (CO ₂)	Blood	LAB55	
Blood gas	Blood	LAB76 (arterial) LAB79 (venous)	STAT – 20 min
	Umbilical blood	LAB8940 (arterial) LAB8941 (venous)	
Calcium (total)	Blood	LAB53	
Carboxyhemoglobin	Blood	LAB56	
Chloride	Blood	LAB59	
Comprehensive Metabolic panel	Blood	LAB17	
Count of cellular elements present in submitted fluid	Blood, CSF, Synovial fluid, miscellaneous	LAB10006	
Creatinine	Blood	LAB65	
Creatinine kinase	Blood	LAB62	
C- reactive protein (CRP)	Blood	LAB149	
Digoxin	Blood	LAB23	
Direct bilirubin	Blood	LAB52	
Glucose	Blood	LAB2510	
Hepatic function panel	Blood	LAB20	
Intact parathyroid hormone	Blood	LAB108	20 min – intra-operative only
Lactate	Blood	LAB95	
Lipase	Blood	LAB99	
Lithium	Blood	LAB29	
Magnesium	Blood	LAB103	
Phosphorus	Blood	LAB113	
Pleural fluid pH	Pleural fluid	LAB8694	
Potassium	Blood	LAB114	
Sodium	Blood	LAB122	
Total bilirubin	Blood	LAB50	
Total protein	Blood	LAB118	
Troponin	Blood	LAB139	
Urea Nitrogen (BUN)	Blood	LAB140	
Urinalysis	Urine (with reflex culture)	LAB2859	
	Urine (without reflex culture)	LAB348	
Toxicology			
Test name	Specimen	Epic code	Comment
Acetaminophen	Blood	LAB2547	

Laboratory Testing Turn-Around Time by Priority Guidance

Dilantin	Blood	LAB31	
Drug of Abuse screen	Urine	LAB2810	
Ethyl alcohol	Blood	LAB2507	
Methotrexate	Blood	LAB481	
Phenytoin	Blood	LAB32	
Salicylate	Blood	LAB34	
Tegretol/Carbamazepine	Blood	LAB21	
Theophylline	Blood	LAB35	
Valproic acid	Blood	LAB24	
Vancomycin	Blood	LAB40	
Hematology			
Test name	Specimen	Epic code	Comment
Complete blood count	Blood	LAB294	
Complete blood count w/ Differential (Outpatient only)	Blood	LAB293	TAT not defined
Coagulation			
Test name	Specimen	Epic code	Comment
D-Dimer	Blood	LAB313	
Fibrinogen	Blood	LAB314	
Partial thromboplastin time	Blood	LAB2754	STAT – 45 min
PFA100	Blood	LAB3552	
Prothrombin time	Blood	LAB320	STAT – 45 min
Thrombin time	Blood	LAB324	
Thromboelastogram (TEG)	Blood	LAB8838 (kaolin)	
		LAB8837 (heparinase)	
VerifyNow testing for aspirin or Plavix effect	Blood (aspirin effect)	LAB8500	
	Blood (Plavix effect)	LAB8502	
Infectious Disease			
Test name	Specimen	Epic code	Comment
Blood Smear Malaria	Blood	LAB2707	Thin smear only
CSF Pathogen Panel	CSF (lumbar puncture only)	LAB8784	
Gram Stain	Various	LAB250	
Group B Strep Rapid PCR	Anovaginal swab	LAB8936	
HIV screen	Blood	LAB2591	
KOH preparation	Various	LAB251	
Rapid Streptococcus Antigen	Throat swab	LAB12011	
Respiratory Panel	Nasopharyngeal swab	LAB8889	
Wet Prep	Genital swab	LAB252	

Laboratory Testing Turn-Around Time by Priority Guidance

Blood Bank			
Test name	Specimen	Epic code	Comment
ABO/Rh Type	Blood	LAB895	
Neonatal Type and Screen	Blood	LAB2912	
Transfusion Reaction Workup	Blood	LAB893	
Type and Screen	Blood	LAB276	
Crossmatch RBC	Blood	LAB281	
Transfuse Cryoprecipitate	NA (ABO type needed)	LAB7003	
Transfuse Plasma	NA (ABO type needed)	LAB7004	