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## ***ORDERING INFORMATION***

### **PRIORITY ORDER CODES AND TURNAROUND TIME**

#### **ROUTINE**

Most Routine Chemistry, Coagulation, Hematology and urinalysis results are available 3 to 6 hours from time of specimen receipt in the laboratory. Microbiology tests are completed within 1-5 days. Special or esoteric tests are resulted as rapidly as complexity permits. Some routine low volume tests are performed on a schedule. See individual test listing for specifics.

#### **STAT AND ASAP**

Requests for expedited or STAT testing should be made only when the patients condition requires immediate action and results of the laboratory test(s) are required before a decision regarding action or treatment can be made. The Medical Executive Committee of CMC has defined a list of tests that may be considered for STAT priority. Please see STAT Test Listing section in this manual.

#### **INPATIENT REQUESTS**

STAT requests are generally drawn within 15 minutes of request and resulted within 1 hour from receipt in the laboratory. All tests ordered from the Emergency Room are considered "STAT". The ER's red lined specimen labels will define the "STAT" distinction. All stat requests from other areas will have the word "STAT" on the label to define the priority.

ASAP or Urgent requests are generally collected as soon as possible, not to exceed 30 minutes from requested time. ASAP or Urgent requests are resulted within 2 hours from sample receipt in the laboratory.

#### **OUTPATIENT REQUESTS**

STAT requests for outpatients will be handled as expeditiously as possible. Specimens will be ordered with a priority of STAT. The specimen will be stabilized and the courier service will be alerted for a pick up, delivering the specimen(s) to the lab within one hour. All Stat results will be communicated to the ordering physician either by fax or phone. It is suggested, if possible, to have the patient be drawn at the Notre Dame Pavilion Patient Service Center to expedite the delivery of the specimen to the Laboratory.

#### **TIMED**

Timed tests are drawn at the indicated time and usually resulted within 2 hours of specimen receipt in the laboratory. Requests for "Timed tests" should be placed when the collection of a specimen is time critical. Examples: Time dependant drug levels such as Vancomycin; Cortisol Stimulation testing; PTT for Heparin monitoring; and Glucose for Glucose Tolerance testing.