



NORTH OAKS Reference Laboratory

*For the most current version of this manual,
please go to www.northoaks.org/lab.*



P.O. Box 2668 • Hammond, LA 70404 • (985) 230-6165 • www.northoaks.org/lab

Table of Contents

■	North Oaks Reference Laboratory Offers	3
■	Hours of Operation, Staff, Contact Information and Supplies	4
■	2013 CMS Approved Laboratory Panels	5
■	Specimen Labeling Requirements	6
■	Collection Procedures	
■	• Venipuncture Using Vacutainer	7
■	• Venipuncture Using Syringe: Sterile	8
■	• Free-flowing Fingerstick	8
■	• BD Vacutainer Order of Draw for Multiple Tube Collections	9
■	• Instructions for Collecting a 24-hour Urine Specimen	10
■	• Collection Tests Guidelines for a 24-hour Urine Specimen	11
■	Therapeutic Drug Monitoring	12
■	Available Testing (by department)	14
■	Pathology Services	16
■	Transporting Infectious Substances	19
■	Available Testing (in alphabetical order)	20

Courier Services

Laboratory courier services
are available upon request.



For courier dispatch please contact Lab Customer Support at (985) 230-6166. For any questions or concerns regarding the couriers, please contact the Performance/Outreach Manager at (985) 230-6525.



Our Mission

“To provide Laboratory Services with Pride, Precision and Professionalism!”

North Oaks Reference Laboratory Offers:

■ Quality Standards

Accredited by:

- The Joint Commission (JCAHO)
- American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)
- College of American Pathologists (CAP)

■ Fast Turnaround of Results

- Same day testing (within 24-hours of receipt of specimen), if applicable
- The testing Laboratory operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including weekends and holidays)
- No batch processing with the exception of HA1C which is performed on day shift Monday through Friday.

■ High Standards of Accuracy

- Same day testing allows integrity of each specimen to remain intact.
- Specimen identification regulations ensure accurate testing for each patient.
- Testing is completed on an individual basis.

■ Personalized Service Based Upon Your Needs

- Laboratory courier services available
- Delivery of needed supplies as requested
- Easy access to management and staff
- Streamlined processes to ensure best service to your institution

Hours of Operation, Staff and Contact Information

The Department of Laboratories of North Oaks Health System, located in Hammond, Louisiana, is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Medical Director of the Laboratory, a Board Certified Pathologist, is an active member of the Medical Staff and serves on several committees. The Laboratory Director is responsible for the daily operation of the Laboratory.

Testing is performed 24 hours daily on both a "STAT" and a "routine" basis. Current test methods and performance specifications are available upon request.

Key Telephone & Fax Numbers

Customer Support.....	(985) 230-6165 or (985) 230-6166
Customer Support Fax.....	(985) 230-6485
Processing	(985) 230-6768
Laboratory Director	(985) 230-6161
Pathologists	(985) 230-1262 or (985) 230-1253
Material Services Fax	(985) 230-6486
Central Dispensing.....	(985) 230-6692
Materials Courier	(985) 230-6254
Business Development Representative	(985) 230-1632

Outpatient Laboratory Hours of Operation

- Outpatient Diagnostic Center: Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Admit Express at North Oaks Medical Center: Saturday 7 a.m.-12 p.m.
- North Oaks Livingston Parish Medical Complex: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. and closed from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch.

Supplies

The North Oaks Department of Material Services will only provide supplies for laboratory testing only if that testing is to be submitted to North Oaks Medical Center.

Supplies will be delivered between **8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday**. Please allow 3 days for delivery of supplies once ordered, not including the day the order was placed.

CMS Approved Laboratory Panels

Basic Metabolic Panel

Calcium
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Creatinine
Glucose
Potassium
Sodium
Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Comprehensive Metabolic Panel

Albumin
Alkaline Phosphatase
ALT (SGPT)
AST (SGOT)
Bilirubin, total
Calcium
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Creatinine
Glucose
Potassium
Sodium
Total Protein
Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Electrolyte Panel

Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Potassium
Sodium

Hepatitis A Screen

Hepatitis A antibody (HAAb), IgM antibody
Hepatitis A antibody, IgG antibody

Hepatitis B Screen

Hepatitis B core Ab Total
Hepatitis B surface antigen
Hepatitis B surface antibody

Hepatitis C Screen

Hepatitis C antibody

Hepatic Function Panel

Albumin
Alkaline Phosphatase
ALT (SGPT)
AST (SGOT)
Bilirubin, direct
Bilirubin, total
Protein, total

Lipid Panel

Cholesterol
Cholesterol, HDL
Cholesterol, LDL
Cholesterol/HDL Ratio
Triglycerides

Renal Function Panel

Albumin
Calcium
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Creatinine
Glucose
Phosphorus Inorganic
Potassium
Sodium
Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Urine Drug Screen

Amphetamine
Barbiturates
Benzodiazepine
Cocaine Metabolite
Opiate
Phencyclidine
Cannabinoids

Any panel or individual test ordered must be accompanied by proper medical justification. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Laboratories at (985) 230-6165.

Specimen Labeling Requirements

To ensure quality and accuracy in our testing, all specimens submitted to the North Oaks Department of Laboratories for processing **MUST BE PROPERLY LABELED** to include the following:

1. Patient's First and Last Name and Date of Birth
2. Medical Record Number (MRN), if available
3. Collection Date and Time
4. Initials of person collecting the specimen and/or their unique identification number
5. Location (Room number or Clinic)
6. Source of specimen (if anything other than blood)

All specimen(s) must be labeled **INDIVIDUALLY**. Any improperly labeled specimen(s) will not be tested. The rejected specimen(s) will need to be recollected and resubmitted for testing. All labels must be placed on the container, not the lid.

NOTE: Specimens collected for cultures also must be labeled with the source of the specimen (i.e., left arm, right leg). Please identify urine specimens as either Clean Catch (CCMS) or Catheterization (CATH).

Collection Procedure: Venipuncture Using Vacutainer

1. Select a sterile needle, but do not remove the needle shield. Thread needle into holder until secure.
2. Select tube(s) appropriate for the type of sample(s) desired.
3. Tubes that contain additives should be gently tapped to dislodge any additive trapped around the stopper.
4. Select the site for venipuncture preparation.
5. Apply tourniquet and prepare site with an alcohol prep*. Allow alcohol to air dry.
6. Place patient's arm in a downward position.
7. Remove needle shield and perform venipuncture with the patient's arm in downward position.
8. Push tube to the end of the holder diaphragm of the tube stopper.**
9. Remove tourniquet when blood begins to fill tube not allowing back flow.
10. When all tubes for the test(s) desired have been collected, remove the last tube from the needle holder.
11. Withdraw the needle from the patient's arm with one swift motion, quickly applying gauze to the venipuncture site.
12. Apply immediate pressure to venipuncture site by applying direct pressure to the gauze placed over the venipuncture site, then let the patient apply pressure and hold arm slightly upward until bleeding has stopped, but don't let him/her bend the elbow.
A bandage may be applied to the venipuncture site after 1-3 minutes, if the patient so desires.
13. Label tubes with all required information as outlined on page 6.

***Use betadine preps when collecting blood alcohol levels.**

****Tubes containing anticoagulants should be filled last to avoid carryover to other tubes. This ensures that they are mixed properly to avoid clotting of the specimen. See "order-of-draw" chart.**

NOTE: Tubes should be inverted gently 5-10 times after collection.

Collection Procedures: Venipuncture Using Syringe: Sterile

1. Select a syringe and inspect for cracks, chips, etc.
2. Select a sterile needle, but do not remove the needle shield. Push needle onto the syringe until a tight fit is achieved.
3. Select the tube(s) for the type of sample(s) desired.
4. Tubes that contain additives should be gently tapped to dislodge any additive trapped around the stopper.
5. Select the site for the venipuncture.
6. Apply tourniquet and prepare site with an alcohol prep. Allow alcohol to air dry.
7. Place the patient's arm in a downward position.
8. Remove the needle shield and perform the venipuncture with the patient's arm in a downward position.
9. Aspirate gently with the syringe plunger until the desired amount of blood is drawn. Aspiration should be gentle to avoid hemolysis. Do not **"force"** blood from syringe into proper collection tubes, let it flow naturally to avoid hemolysis.
10. Release the tourniquet when half of the desired blood is obtained.
11. Withdraw the needle from the patient's arm with one swift motion, quickly applying a gauze to the venipuncture site.
12. Press down on gauze for a short period of time. Then let the patient apply pressure and hold arm slightly upward until bleeding has stopped. A bandage may be applied to the venipuncture site after 1-3 minutes if the patient so desires.
13. Label tubes with all required information as outlined on page 6.

NOTE: Tubes should be inverted gently 5-10 times after collection.

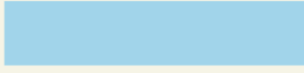








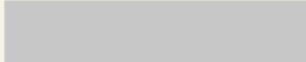
Free-flowing Fingerstick

1. Wipe finger with an alcohol swab. Allow alcohol to air dry. (The ring or middle fingers are usually best to stick.)
2. Pierce finger with a sterile lancet.
3. Press area lightly. Wipe off first drop of blood with dry gauze.
4. Press area again and collect free-flowing blood as required for the test requested.
5. After all blood required is obtained, gently press a dry gauze on the site for 1-3 minutes. A bandage may be applied to the site after 1-3 minutes, if the patient so desires.

BD Vacutainer® Order of Draw for Multiple Tube Collections

Designed for Your Safety

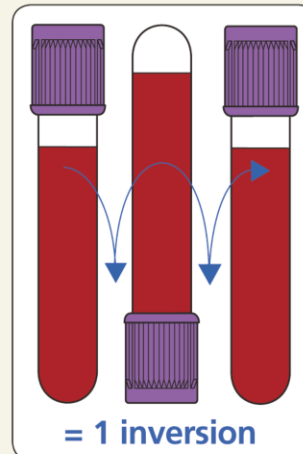
Reflects change in NCCLS recommended
Order of Draw (NCCLS H3-A5, Vol 23, No 32, 8.10.2)

Closure Color	Collection Tube	Mix by Inverting
BD Vacutainer® Blood Collection Tubes (glass or plastic)		
	• Citrate Tube*	3 to 4 times
 or 	• BD Vacutainer® SST™ Gel Separator Tube	5 times
	• Serum Tube <i>(glass or plastic)</i>	5 times (plastic) none (glass)
	• Heparin Tube	8 to 10 times
 or 	• BD Vacutainer® PST™ Gel Separator Tube With Heparin	8 to 10 times
 or 	• EDTA Tube	8 to 10 times
	• Fluoride (glucose) Tube	8 to 10 times

* When using a winged blood collection set for venipuncture and a coagulation (citrate) tube is the first specimen tube to be drawn, a discard tube should be drawn first. The discard tube must be used to fill the blood collection set tubing's "dead space" with blood but the discard tube does not need to be completely filled. This important step will ensure maintenance of the proper blood-to-additive ratio of the blood specimen. The discard tube should be a non-additive or coagulation tube.

Note: Always follow your facility's protocol for order of draw

Handle all biologic samples and blood collection "sharps" (lancets, needles, luer adapters and blood collection sets) according to the policies and procedures of your facility. Obtain appropriate medical attention in the event of any exposure to biologic samples (for example, through a puncture injury) since they may transmit viral hepatitis, HIV (AIDS), or other infectious diseases. Utilize any built-in used needle protector if the blood collection device provides one. BD does not recommend reshielding used needles, but the policies and procedures of your facility may differ and must always be followed. Discard any blood collection "sharps" in biohazard containers approved for their disposal.



**BD Global
Technical Services
1.800.631.0174**

**BD Customer Service
1.888.237.2762
www.bd.com/vacutainer**

Instructions for Collecting a 24-hour Urine Specimen

Your doctor has ordered a test for you that requires a 24-hour urine specimen. Please follow the directions below to get a good specimen.

1. We have given you both a large and a small container for use in your collection process. Please use the containers we provide.
2. When you awaken in the morning, empty your bladder. You do NOT keep this specimen. Write this time as your start time.
3. For the next 24 hours, every time you urinate (empty your bladder), catch your urine in the little container provided and then pour it into the large container.
4. An accurate test result depends on a total 24-hour collection of all urine passed during the period.
5. Please keep the specimen on ice or in the refrigerator during the collection process and until delivered to the laboratory.
6. Bring the specimen to one of the following locations as soon as possible after you finish collecting it:
 - Outpatient Diagnostic Center: Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
 - Admit Express at North Oaks Medical Center: Saturday 6 a.m.-12 noon
 - North Oaks Livingston Parish Medical Complex: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
7. Creatinine Clearance testing also requires a blood specimen. Your blood specimen will be drawn at the time you return specimen container.

If you have any questions during your collection process, please feel free to call us at **(985) 230-6768**.

*Please make copies to distribute to your patients or visit www.northoaks.org/lab.

Name:	Collection Start Date: / /
Height (inches):	Weight: Kg. Lbs.
Time Test Began:	Time Test Ended:

Collection Tests Guidelines for a 24-hour Urine Specimen

A 24-hour urine collection should be kept refrigerated or on ice until delivered to the laboratory for testing.

The following tests are performed by a reference laboratory and require no preservative at the time of collection.

- 5-HIAA
- 18-Hydroxycortisol
- Calcium
- Catecholamines
- Citric Acid
- Cortisol (Free)
- Cortisone
- Heavy Metals
- Homovanillic Acid
- Magnesium
- Metanephrines
- Oxalate
- Phosphorus
- Porphyrins
- UPEP
- Uric Acid
- VMA
- Zinc

The tests listed below are performed by the North Oaks Medical Center Testing Laboratory and require no preservative.

- Creatinine Clearance
- Potassium
- Protein
- Sodium

If information is needed for other testing not listed, please call the North Oaks Medical Center Laboratory at (985) 230-6165 or (985) 230-6768.

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Aminoglycosides

Recommended Sampling Times

*Amikacin Sulfate
(Amikin)

PEAK: 1 hour after IM injection, 30-60 minutes
after IV infusion ends
TROUGH: Just prior to next dose

Gentamicin Sulfate
(Cidomycin, Garamycin,
Gentamicin Sulfate ADD-
Vantage, Jenamicin)

PEAK: 1 hour after IM injection, 30-60 minutes
after IV infusion ends
TROUGH: Just prior to next dose

Tobramycin Sulfate
(Nebcin)

PEAK: 1 hour after IM injection, 30-60 minutes
after IV infusion ends
TROUGH: Just prior to next dose

***Do not collect blood in heparinized tube as heparin is incompatible with aminoglycosides.**

*This test is not performed in house at North Oaks Medical Center Laboratory.

Generic Drug Name/Brand Name

Recommended Sampling Times

Vancomycin Hydrochloride

PEAK: 60 minutes after infusion ends
TROUGH: Just prior to next dose

THEOPHYLLINE (Aminophylline)

PEAK: 2 hours after oral dose 30 minutes
after completion of IV dose
TROUGH: Just prior to next dose

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Generic Drug Name/Brand Name	Recommended Sampling Times
*N-ACETYLPROCAINAMIDE (NAPA)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*AMITRIPTYLINE (Elavil)	TROUGH: 12-14 hours after dose
CARBAMAZEPINE (Tegretol)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*CHLORAMPHENICOL (Chloromycetin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*CHLORDIAZEPOXIDE (Librium)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*CHLORPROMAZINE (Thorazine)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*CIMETIDINE (Tagamet)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*CLONAZEPAM (Klonopin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*DESIPRAMINE (Norpramin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*DIAZEPAM (Valium)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
DIGOXIN	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*DISOPYRAMIDE (Norpace)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*DOXEPIN (Sinequan)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*ETHOSUXIMIDE (Zarontin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*IMIPRAMINE (Tofranil)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*LIDOCAINE (Xylocaine)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
LITHIUM (Eskalith)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*NORTRIPTYLINE (Aventyl, Pamelor)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PHENOBARBITAL (Nembutal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PHENOBARBITAL (Luminal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PHENYTOIN (Dilantin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*PRIMIDONE (Mysoline)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*PROCAINAMIDE (Pronestyl)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*PROPRANOLOL (Inderal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*PROTRIPTYLINE (Vivactyl)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*QUINIDINE	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
SALICYLIC ACID (Salicylate)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
*THIOPENTAL (Pentothal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
VALPROIC ACID (Depakene)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose

*These tests are not performed in house at North Oaks Medical Center Laboratory.

Available Testing (by department)

CHEMISTRY

- CK-MB
- Acetaminophen
- Albumin
- Alcohol
- Alkaline Phosphatase
- ALT
- Ammonia
- Amylase
- AST
- Basic Metabolic Panel
- BHCG
- Bilirubin
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Total
 - Neonatal
- BUN
- Calcium
- Carbamazepine
- Complement C3
- Complement C4
- Cortisol (Serum)
- CSF Glucose
- CSF Protein
- Cholesterol
 - LDL
 - HDL
 - Total
 - HDL/LDL
- Chloride
- Carbon Dioxide
- Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
- CPK
- Creatinine Clearance
- Creatinine
- hsCRP
- Digoxin
- Electrolyte Panel
- Ferritin
- Folate (Serum)
- Free Thyroxine Index
- FT3
- Gentamicin
- Glucose
 - 1 Hour – Post Glucola
 - 2 Hour – Post Prandial
- GGT
- Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT: includes fasting and other times as indicated)
 - 2 Hour
 - 3 Hour
 - 4 Hour
 - 5 Hour
- Haptoglobin
- Hemoglobin A1C
- Hepatic Function Panel
- Hepatitis A Panel
- Hepatitis B Panel
- Hepatitis C Panel
- HIV
- TSH
- IgM
- IgG
- IgA
- Iron
- Lactic Acid
- Lactose Tolerance
- LDH
- Lipase
- Lipid Profile
- Lithium
- Magnesium
- NPA - BNP
- Osmolality (Serum and Urine)
- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin
- Phosphorus
- Potassium
- Prealbumin
- Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA)
- PTH (intact)
- Renal Panel
- Salicylate
- Sodium
- Syphilis
- T3 Free
- FT4
- T4 Total
- T3 Uptake
- Theophylline
- TIBC - Calculated % Saturation with Iron & Transferrin
- Tobramycin
- Total Protein
- Total Testosterone
- Triglycerides
- Troponin I
- Uric Acid
- Urine
 - Amylase (2 hour)
 - Potassium (Random & 24 hour)
 - Protein (Random & 24 hour)
 - Sodium (Random & 24 hour)
 - Creatinine (Random & 24 hour)
 - Urine Drug Screens
 - Microalbumin (Random)
- Valproic Acid
- Vancomycin
- Vitamin B-12
- Vitamin D, 25-Hydroxy

Available Testing (by department)

PATHOLOGY

(Both must be scheduled.)

(M-F, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.)

- Bone Marrow
- Fine Needle Aspirate
- Immunohistochemistry

HEMATOLOGY

- Body Fluid Count
- CBC or any part
- Crystal Exam
- Differential (WBC)
- Nasal Eosinophil Smear
- Reticulocyte Count
- Sedimentation Rate
- Spinal Fluid Exam

COAGULATION

(Patient must be scheduled.)

- D-Dimer
- Factor XA
- Fibrinogen
- Prothrombin time/INR
- PTT
- Rotem

SEROLOGY

- Fetal Fibronectin (FFN)
- Fetal Membranes Rupture (ROM+) Test
- HCG – Urine/Serum
- Influenza A/B and RSV with reflex to Respiratory Virus Panel
- Mono Test
- RA (Rheumatoid Factor)
- RPR (Rapid Plasma Reagin)
- Strep A (Rapid Strep)

BACTERIOLOGY

- Blood Cultures
- Direct AFB Stain
- Fungal Cultures
- Gram Stain
- India Ink
- KOH Prep
- MRSA PCR
- MRSA Screen
- *Routine Aerobic C/S
- *Routine Anaerobic
- Stool Culture (no diapers)
- Urease Test for H. pylori
- Wet Prep (Within 1 hr. of Collection)

URINALYSIS

- Complete Urinalysis or any part
- Eosinophil Count (Urine)

PARASITOLOGY

- C. Difficile Toxin A/B with reflex to PCR
- Cryptosporidium Antigen
- GSA – Giardia Specific Antigen
- Occult Blood (stool)
- Occult Blood (gastric)
- Parasite Identification (non-stool samples: Worm, bug or other)
- Pin Worm Prep
- Rotavirus
- Stool for Leukocytes

BLOOD BANK

- Cord Blood Study (Type, Rh, DAT)
- Compatibility Testing (Crossmatch)
- Component Therapy Red Blood Cells Platelets Plasma Cryoprecipitate
- Type and Screen
- Antibody Identification
- Transfusion Reaction Workup
- Neonatal Type and DAT
- Type and Rh
- DAT (Direct Antiglobulin Test)
- Rh Immune Globulin Screen
- Antigen Type (Specific Antigen)

*For questions regarding the various types of routine aerobic and anaerobic cultures performed in-house, please contact the Microbiology department at (985) 230-6168.

Pathology Services



Pathology Services

Cytology

NON-GYN: Specimens include Cyst, Brushings, FNA's, Skin Lesion, Sputum, Urine, Lymph node

- **Brushings, Smear:** Upon making slides, *place immediately in fixative*. DO NOT let air-dry.
 - **FNA's:** It is recommended two drops of specimen be placed on the slide. Cover the slide with another slide, and pull the two slides apart to make the smear. *Place immediately in fixative*. DO NOT let air-dry.
 - **Urine, Sputum or Body Fluids:** DO NOT require a fixative if submitted to the laboratory within two hours of collection.
1. Complete a Cytopathology requisition.
 2. Label specimen container with patient's name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, date and time of collection. Slides should be labeled with patient's last name, first initial and date.
 3. Specimens should be submitted in a sterile container with or without fixative. Appropriate Fixatives are CytoLyt Solution, Ethyl Alcohol, and Isopropyl.
 4. Submit fluid fixed with a minimum of 10 mL of fixative. Specimens larger than 10 mL should be fixed with a volume of fixative equal to the volume of the specimen.

NOTE: All patient slides must have source with correct laterality (if available) just like the label on specimen containers.

Pathology Services

Flow Cytometry

(Please contact the Laboratory if collecting Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.)

NON-GYN (FNA's, Skinny Needle Biopsy)

1. Place aspirated Non-Gyn material into a 15 mL tube containing RPMI solution. (At least 2 or 3 pieces if needle biopsy specimen and 2 or 3 passes if needle aspirate). Fresh specimen can also be sent to the lab.
2. Transport specimen to Laboratory ASAP.

TISSUE BIOPSY

1. Place tissue into a 15 mL tube containing RPMI solution. (At least 5x5 mm fragment of tissue)
2. Transport specimen to Laboratory ASAP.
3. **ONLY use RPMI fixative, do not use formalin or saline.**

PERIPHERAL BLOOD/BONE MARROW

1. Specimens should be submitted in a green Sodium Heparin tube ambient temperature.

Cytogenetics

PRODUCTS OF CONCEPTION

1. Place tissue into a 15 mL tube containing Hanks, Ringers solution.
2. Transport specimen to Laboratory ASAP.
3. **ONLY use Hanks, Ringers solution, do not use formalin or saline.**
4. Place at least a 5x5 mm size tissue fragment.

Please call (985) 230-6165 for any additional information concerning Cytology or Pathology request. Special media such as Hanks, Ringers solution and RPMI fixative can be obtained from the Laboratory. Please call (985) 230-6768.

Pathology/Tissue

1. Complete the Pathology requisition.
2. Record the patient's name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, collection date and time, clinical/pre-op diagnosis, pertinent clinical history, specific anatomic location of tissue removed and the procedure on the requisition.
3. After biopsy collection, immediately place each specimen in a tightly secured container with 10% neutral buffered formalin. Formalin must surround the specimen for proper fixation. Formalin volume to specimen ratio should be 10:1.
4. Use a separate container for each separately identified specimen.
5. Label each container wall (not the lid) with the name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, date and time of collection and specimen source (ex. LML, RML).
6. Transport the specimen and the completed requisition to the Laboratory.

Transporting Infectious Substances

1. Specimens must be packaged in 2-pocket biohazard bags. Specimens must be in 1 pocket, and paperwork (orders) must be in the other pocket.
2. Specimens must be labeled with all required information as outlined on page 6.
3. Specimens must be placed in an insulated container until transported to the North Oaks Laboratory.
4. Between the primary biohazard bag and the ice packs, there must be absorbent material sufficient to soak up the entire contents of the primary bag.

NOTE: Specimens for chemistry tests that are in plain red top tubes or non-centrifuged SST tubes are stable for 2 hours only.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name: **Acetaminophen (ACTMN)**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
C&S: 4 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: Alias Name: Tylenol

Test Name: **Albumin**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: **Alcohol**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: 2 hours non-centrifuged, run immediately once unstoppered
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: Use a non-alcoholic germicidal solution for skin prep.

Test Name: **Alkaline Phosphatase**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: **ALT**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: **Ammonia (NH₃)**

Preferred Specimen: **Lithium Heparin green top tube**
Stability: Send to lab in iced tube. Specimen **must** be spun down and analyzed within 30 minutes of draw time
Transport Temperature: Send specimen on ice.
Special Instructions: Ice tube prior to collection. Send specimen to Lab on ice.

Test Name: **Amylase**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	AST (SGOT)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	AUSAB
Preferred Specimen:	SST
Stability:	72 hours Room Temperature; 7 days Refrigerated
Test Name:	Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Bilirubin Direct
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.
Test Name:	Bilirubin Total
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.
Test Name:	Blood Culture (Adult)
Preferred Specimen:	1 BacT/Alert Aerobic Bottle 1 BacT/Alert Anaerobic Bottle
Stability:	Minimum: transport as quickly as possible; Maximum: 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Special Instructions:	Collect 5 mL whole blood in each bottle.
Test Name:	Blood Culture (Pediatric)
Preferred Specimen:	1 BacT/Alert Pediatric Bottle
Stability:	Minimum: transport as quickly as possible; Maximum: 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Special Instructions:	Collect 0.5-4 mL whole blood in bottle; only used on pediatric or "hard stick" patients.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name: **BODY FLUID: COUNT**

Preferred Specimen: **Green Top (heparin) tube**
 Stability: Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165.
 Transport Temperature: Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165.
 Special Instructions: Must contact Hematology at (985) 230-6948.

Test Name: **BUN**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
 Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
 Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
 Special Instructions: None

Test Name: **Calcium**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
 Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
 Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
 Special Instructions: None

Test Name: **Carbamazepine**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
 Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
 Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
 Special Instructions: Alias Name: Tegretol; Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: **Cholesterol**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
 Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
 Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
 Special Instructions: None

Test Name: **Chloride**

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
 Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
 Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
 Special Instructions: None

Test Name: **CKMB**

Preferred Specimen: **Lithium Heparin green top**
 Stability: Non-centrifuged: 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
 Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
 Special Instructions: None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Clostridium Difficile
Preferred Specimen:	Stool in sterile container
Stability:	Refrigerated or frozen within 24 hours of collection. May be kept 4 days refrigerated.
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of soft stool, not indicated on formed stools

Test Name:	CO2
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Complement C3
Preferred Specimen:	Lithium Heparin
Stability:	6 hours Room Temperature; 24 hours Refrigerated (2-8°C)
Transport Temperature:	Stored Frozen at -15 to -20°C for 1 week

Test Name:	Complement C4
Preferred Specimen:	Lithium Heparin
Stability:	6 hours Room Temperature; 24 hours Refrigerated (2-8°C)
Transport Temperature:	Stored Frozen at -15 to -20°C for 1 week

Test Name:	Complete Blood Count (CBC)
Preferred Specimen:	1 EDTA (purple)
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours; Room Temperature 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name:	Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.

Test Name:	Cortisol (Serum)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Suggested draw times: 8-10 a.m. or 4-6 p.m.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	CPK
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Creatinine
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Crystal Exam
Preferred Specimen:	Fluid in Sodium Heparin green tube
Stability:	Room Temperature 48 hours; Refrigerated 1 week
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Cryptosporidium, Antigen
Preferred Specimen:	Stool
Stability:	Fresh stored at 2-8°C and tested within 1 hour.
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool
Test Name:	CSF (Glucose)
Preferred Specimen:	CSF fluid in sterile container
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Transport Temperature:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Test Name:	CSF (Protein)
Preferred Specimen:	CSF fluid in sterile container
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Transport Temperature:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Test Name:	CSF (Cell Count)
Preferred Specimen:	CSF fluid in sterile container
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6948.
Transport Temperature:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6948.
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6948.
Test Name:	Culture (Stool)
Preferred Specimen:	Stool
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool; NO DIAPERS. Screw top containers preferred.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Culture (Urine)
Preferred Specimen:	Urine
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours unpreserved / 48 hours preserved
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	B-D collection system (gray tops) preferred
NOTE:	MUST be labeled as urine cath or clean catch (This will determine work-up guidelines.)
Test Name:	Culture Wound
Preferred Specimen:	Culturette with gel or foam at bottom
Stability:	48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature or Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Please label the swab with the site of culture. <i>(ex. left arm, right leg, hip, buttock, mouth, etc.)</i>
Test Name:	D-Dimer
Preferred Specimen:	Whole blood in sodium-citrate tube
Stability:	Room Temperature 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Fill tube to line.
Test Name:	Digoxin
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.
Test Name:	Dilantin
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Alias name: Phenytoin; Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.
Test Name:	Factor XA
Preferred Specimen:	3.3% Sodium Citrate
Stability:	4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Special Instructions:	Will be rejected if not filled to minimum line.
Test Name:	Fecal Leukocyte
Preferred Specimen:	Stool
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours; Room Temperature tested within 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Do not freeze.
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Ferritin
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Folate
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light. Fasting specimen is preferred.

Test Name:	Gentamicin Peak
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as "PEAK." Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Gentamicin Random
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as "RANDOM".

Test Name:	Gentamicin Trough
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as "TROUGH." Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	GGT
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Giardia Antigen
Preferred Specimen:	Stool
Stability:	Fresh stored at 2-8°C and tested within 1 hour.
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name:	Glucose
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Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

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PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: Glucose Tolerance Test

Preferred Specimen: **Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 for instructions.**

Test Name: Gram Stain

Done on following CXS: **Wounds, fluids, respiratory and CSF (stats from surgery)**
Stability: 48 hours when in transport media
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: On routine CXS (wounds, fluids respiratory and CSF), a gram stain is automatically included.

Test Name: Group B Streptococcus

Preferred Specimen: **CSF or Serum Room Temperature (ASAP) sep**
Stability: Refrigerated for 48 hours separated from cells
Frozen 48 hours at -20°C
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None
Minimum Volume: 1 mL serum or CSF

Test Name: Haptoglobin

Preferred Specimen: **Lithium Heparin, Sodium Heparin**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours; Room Temperature 8 hours;
Refrigerated 72 hours

Test Name: HAVAB-G

Preferred Specimen: **Serum**
Stability: 4 days Room Temperature; 8 days Refrigerated

Test Name: HAVAB-M

Preferred Specimen: **Serum**
Stability: 72 hours Room Temperature; 7 days Refrigerated

Test Name: HBsAg

Preferred Specimen: **Serum**
Stability: 24 hours Room Temperature; 6 days Refrigerated

Test Name: HCG, Quantitative

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 8 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	HDL
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 7 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Hematocrit
Preferred Specimen:	1 EDTA (purple)
Stability:	Room Temperature 24 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name:	Hemoglobin
Preferred Specimen:	1 EDTA (purple)
Stability:	Room Temperature 24 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name:	Hemoglobin A1C
Preferred Specimen:	1 EDTA (purple)
Stability:	Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 7 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name:	Hepatic Function Panel (HFP)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.

Test Name:	HIV
Preferred Specimen:	Serum
Stability:	72 hours Room Temperature; 7 days Refrigerated

Test Name:	IgA
Preferred Specimen:	Lithium Heparin
Stability:	8 hours Room Temperature; 48 hours Frozen

Test Name:	IgG
Preferred Specimen:	Lithium Heparin
Stability:	8 hours Room Temperature; 48 hours Frozen

Test Name:	IgM
Preferred Specimen:	Lithium Heparin
Stability:	8 hours Room Temperature; 48 hours Frozen

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Immunohistochemistry
Preferred Specimen:	Call the Anatomical Pathology Department at (985) 230-7175 with any questions.
Test Name:	Influenza A&B/RSV
Preferred Specimen 1:	Nasopharyngeal Swab
Stability:	24 hours Room Temperature; 7 days Refrigerated
Transport Temperature:	2-8°C
Special Instructions:	Must be collected in XPert Nasopharyngeal Sample Collection Kit for Viruses
Test Name:	Iron
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Lactic Acid (LA)
Preferred Specimen:	Grey top tube (potassium oxalate)
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165.
Transport Temperature:	Send to Lab within 15 minutes of draw time in iced tube.
Special Instructions:	Ice tube prior to collection; send specimen to Lab on ice.
Test Name:	Lactose Tolerance Test
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 for instructions.
Test Name:	LDH
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 2 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature (Refrigerated not acceptable)
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Lipase
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Lithium
Preferred Specimen:	SST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 4 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name: Lytes (Electrolytes)

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: Magnesium (Mg)

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: Meningitis Panel

Preferred Specimen: **SST**
Stability: Refrigerated 48 hours; (2-8°C) separated from cells
Transport Temperature: Frozen -20°C
Special Instructions: Call Laboratory for Neonate Instructions
Minimum Volume: 2 mL serum for adults

Test Name: Mono

Preferred Specimen: **SST**
Stability: Refrigerated 48 hours (2-8°C)
Transport Temperature: Frozen below -10°C; tested within 3 months
Special Instructions: None
Minimum Volume: 1 mL

Test Name: Nasal Eosinophil Smear

Preferred Specimen: **Air Dried Slide**
Special Instructions: Smear nasal discharge on the slide and let air dry; label slide with required patient information.

Test Name: Naturetic Peptide Assay (NPA) or (BNP)

Preferred Specimen: **1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Neonatal Bilirubin (NBIL)

Preferred Specimen: **Green top microtainer**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
 C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: **Protect tube from light.**

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name: OCBA (Occult Blood)

Preferred Specimen: **Gastric, Emesis**
Stability: Room Temperature 24 hours
Transport Temperature: Room Temperature
Special Instructions: (None)
Minimum Volume: 1 mL

Test Name: Occult Blood (OCB)

Preferred Specimen: **Stool**
Stability: Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Room Temperature 24 hours
Special Instructions: None
Minimum Volume: 1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name: Osmolality (Serum and Urine)

Preferred Specimen: **Serum: SST**
Urine: Capped container with No preservatives
Stability: Serum: Non-centrifuged 3 hours
Serum: C&S: Room Temperature 3 hours; Refrigerated 10 hours
Urine: Room Temperature 3 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated Serum and Urine
Special Instructions: None
Minimum Volume: 1 mL

Test Name: Parasite ID

Preferred Specimen: **Non-stool (sputum, skin or whole organism)**
Stability: 24 hours
Transport Temperature: Room Temperature 24 hours
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: Parathyroid Hormone Intact (PTH)

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT)

Preferred Specimen: **Whole blood in Buffered Na Citrate (light blue tube)**
Stability: Room Temperature 4 hours
Transport Temperature: Room Temperature
Special Instructions: Fill tube to line.

Test Name: pH, Stool

Preferred Specimen: **Stool**
Stability: Room Temperature 1 hour; Refrigerated 24 hours at 2-8°C
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None
Minimum Volume: 1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Phenobarbital (PHNO)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Phosphorus
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Pinworms Examination
Preferred Specimen:	Pinworm prep device (swube tube)
Stability:	Room Temperature 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature 24 hours
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name:	Potassium (K)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Avoid hemolysis

Test Name:	Prealbumin
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Protein/Creatinine Ratio
Preferred Specimen:	Urine-Random
Stability:	Room Temperature 2 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Protein, Total
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Prothrombin Time (PT)
Preferred Specimen:	Whole blood in Buffered Na Citrate (light blue tube)
Stability:	Room Temperature 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Special Instructions:	Fill tube to line.
Test Name:	PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen)
Preferred Specimen:	SST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S: Room Temperature 3 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Renal Function Panel
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Reticulocyte Count (RETIC)
Preferred Specimen:	1 EDTA (purple)
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.
Test Name:	Rheumatoid Factor (RA Latex)
Preferred Specimen:	SST
Stability:	Room Temperature 8 hours, refrigerated 8 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Rotavirus
Preferred Specimen:	Stool
Stability:	Refrigerated 72 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated (2-8°C)
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool
Test Name:	Rotem
Preferred Specimen:	3.2% Sodium Citrate (two tubes)
Stability:	4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Test Name:	RPR (Quantitative Titer)
Preferred Specimen:	SST
Stability:	Room Temperature 5 hours. Refrigerated 5 days (separated from cells)
Transport Temperature:	Frozen -20°C (1 week)
Special Instructions:	No CSF
Minimum volume:	1 mL

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	RSV
Preferred Specimen 1:	(0.5-3 mL) Nasal Wash in sterile container
Stability:	Room Temperature 4 hours, Refrigerated (2-8°C) for 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Nasal Wash: Collect wash samples in standard collection cups. Use procedures appropriate for age of the patient.
Preferred Specimen 2:	Nasopharyngeal (N.P.) Swab
Stability:	Room Temperature 4 hours, Refrigerated (2-8°C) for 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Nasopharyngeal Swabs: Polyester, rayon, foam, cotton and flocked nasopharyngeal swabs, all with flexible shafts, have been evaluated and found to be acceptable for use in the BinaxNOW® test. Add swab specimens to 0.5-3.0 mL of a suitable liquid transport system within one hour of collection. E-swabs are acceptable.
Test Name:	Salicylate
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Alias Name: Aspirin; Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.
Test Name:	Sedimentation Rate (ESR)
Preferred Specimen:	1 EDTA (purple)
Stability:	Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.
Test Name:	Sodium (Na)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Test Name:	Spinal Fluid Exam
Special Instructions:	Call the Laboratory at (985) 230-6948 or (985) 230-6469 for instructions
Test Name:	Strep A Screen
Preferred Specimen:	Use a polyester swab. Do not use a cotton swab. Rayon transport swabs containing modified Stuart's or Amies liquid medium also may be used. (Do not crush ampule, do not put swab in gel)
Stability:	Room Temperature up to 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	In sterile tube; Refrigerated 72°
Special Instructions:	None.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Syphilis
Preferred Specimen:	Serum
Stability:	72 hours Room Temperature; 7 days Refrigerated; 30 days Frozen
Minimum Volume:	80 mL

Test Name:	T3, Free
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	T3, Uptake
Preferred Specimen:	Lithium Heparin
Stability:	8 hours Room Temperature; 48 hours Refrigerated

Test Name:	T4 (Total)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	T4 (Free)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 48 hours; C&S Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Testosterone, Total
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Theophylline (Theo)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S Room Temperature 18 hours, Refrigerated 7 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Tobramycin
Preferred Specimen:	Lithium Heparin, PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours

Test Name:	Tobramycin Peak
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as "PEAK." Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Tobramycin Random
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours or refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as "Random".

Test Name:	Tobramycin Trough
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as "TROUGH." Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Triglycerides
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Troponin I
Preferred Specimen:	Li Heparin green top tube
Stability:	Room Temperature 2 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Must be received within 1 hour of collection

Test Name:	Uric Acid
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

NOTE: If a Free & Total is ordered, both will be sent to the Reference Lab for testing

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name:	Urinalysis
Preferred Specimen:	Urine 10 mL
Stability:	Room temperature 2 hours or 24 hours Refrigerated
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	UMAC: urine chemistry (Ketones, Sp. G, Bld, Glu, Nit, Leuk, Bilirubin, pH, Protein, Urobilinogen) UMIC: urine microscope (WBC-RBC-Casts, Bact epi)
Minimum Volume:	1 mL
Test Name:	Urine 24-hour Collection
	(Creatinine clearance, Potassium, Sodium, Protein, Amylase)
Preferred Specimen:	24-hour urine collection plain jug
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Keep specimens on ice or refrigerated during collection. Submit patient's height and weight. Instruction form must be filled out and submitted with the urine container. Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165 for additional information.
Test Name:	Urine Drug Screen
Preferred Specimen:	25 cc urine
Stability:	Send to Laboratory within 4 hours of collection; Refrigerated 7 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	SCREEN ONLY. Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 if confirmation is needed for positive results.
Test Name:	Urine Eosinophil Count
Preferred Specimen:	Urine in Sterile Container
Stability:	Room Temperature 2 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated 24 hours
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL
Test Name:	Urine or Serum (Qualitative) Pregnancy Test
Preferred Specimen:	Urine or Serum SST
Stability:	24 hours Room Temperature or 48 hours Refrigerated (2-8°C)
Transport Temperature:	Frozen (-20°C)
	Serum: 24 hours Room Temperature up to 48 hours (2-8°C)
Special Instructions:	Screen Only. Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 if confirmation is needed for positive results.
Minimum volume:	1 mL
Test Name:	Valproic Acid
Preferred Specimen:	PST
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

**SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube**

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN BOLD.

Test Name: **Vancomycin Peak**

Preferred Specimen:

PST

Stability:

Non-centrifuged 2 hours

C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours

Transport Temperature:

Refrigerated

Special Instructions:

Label tube as "PEAK." Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: **Vancomycin Random**

Preferred Specimen:

PST

Stability:

Non-centrifuged 2 hours

C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours

Transport Temperature:

Refrigerated

Special Instructions:

Tube must be labeled as "Random".

Test Name: **Vancomycin Trough**

Preferred Specimen:

PST

Stability:

Non-centrifuged 2 hours

C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours

Transport Temperature:

Refrigerated

Special Instructions:

Label tube as "TROUGH." Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: **Vitamin B-12**

Preferred Specimen:

PST

Stability:

Non-centrifuged 2 hours

C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours

Transport Temperature:

Refrigerated

Special Instructions:

Fasting specimen preferred

Test Name: **Vitamin D, 25-Hydroxy**

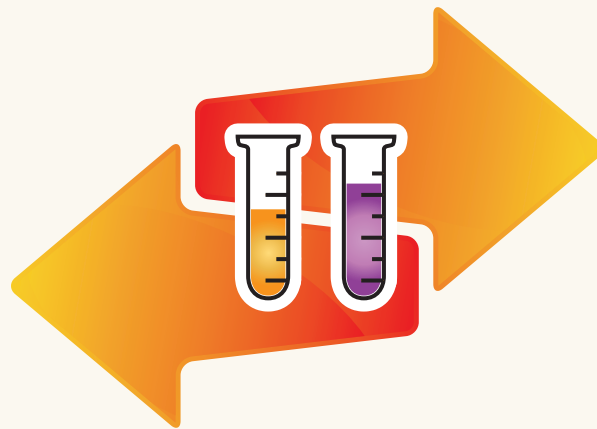
Preferred Specimen:

Lithium Heparin

Stability:

Room Temperature 72 hours; Refrigerate 72 hours;

Freeze after 7 days



Remember ...
**our laboratory courier is
available to serve you.**

