



# Penn Medicine

## Lancaster General Health

### Client and Physician Office Services

#### LGH Courier System

The courier service is used to transport specimens in a scheduled and timely fashion from the physician's office or laboratory satellite to the hospital laboratory. The conditions we provide for transporting specimens ensure the stability and integrity of the specimen provided that the collection, processing, and handling of the specimens within the office or satellite was carried out according to recommended procedures. The courier uses a cooler to transport specimens from the office, or a locked insulated box, to the vehicle's cooler. The courier records the time of pick up and the number of specimens (laboratory, cytology/pathology/frozen) on the daily route sheet. The vehicle is kept air-conditioned during the summer months and heated during the winter months to keep the vehicle's interior ambient temperature close to room temperature. This helps to prevent significant temperature fluctuations when the containers are opened and closed at each pick-up. The coolers and storage containers in the vehicle are located away from the vehicle heating/cooling vents.

- During normal office hours, STAT Specimens – The Couriers do not make special trips to offices for STATs. These specimens will be given priority and will be registered first and then taken to the Laboratory as soon as possible.
- Frozen Specimens – These specimens must already be frozen before the courier arrives at your office. The transport bags **must** have a pink “FROZEN” sticker applied to both sides.
- Supplies – All forms and supplies can be ordered by using the Laboratory Collection Service Supply Order Form. It will take approximately 3 working days to receive your order.
- Inclement Weather – Please call the office (717-544-3945) if you are closing your office early or are not opening your office, due to bad weather. This will help the Couriers plan their routes.
- Specimen Transport – Use only the LGH transport bags to assure delivery to the correct Testing facility (LGH). Do not mix Pathology Specimens with other Laboratory specimens. Be sure the bag is tightly sealed shut to prevent specimens and tubes from falling out during transport and being separated from the correct Requisition Form.
- Specimen Pick up – Please have all specimens in one location for pick up. Also, one central drop off location is appreciated.
- Holidays – Especially for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, special route schedules are used. Notices will be sent out in advance so you can plan your office schedule on these days.



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### **STAT Priority/STAT Test List**

The standard of performance for "STAT" tests listed below is that the turn-around-time (TAT) from Laboratory receipt to call back to the office be no more than 60 minutes. This must be recognized as a generalization, not a guarantee. TAT for most of the tests listed will usually be significantly less than 60 minutes, and some (marked with an asterisk\*) will invariably be more than 60 minutes, either due to the time required for the procedure itself, or the need to call in personnel trained to perform the procedure.

**Only tests reflected in the STAT test list can be processed on a STAT basis.**

### **Clinical Criteria for "STAT" Laboratory Testing**

As applied to laboratory test requests, STAT means a request for information that has immediate implications for patient care. The receipt of the requested information will result in action within a reasonably short time, perhaps 15 to 30 minutes, which may alter either the course of the disease or the patient's outcome. The key elements of this definition are: 1) the patient's condition requires immediate action, and 2) results of the test(s) are required before a decision about the type of action to be taken can be made.

**BLOOD BANK** - The following tests and components may be ordered "STAT", 24 hours/day without prior consultation with the pathologist:

- Blood Group & Rh Factor
- Direct Antiglobulin Test (DAT)
- Cord blood work up, including cord bilirubin when indicated
- Crossmatch for Packed Cells
- Cryoprecipitate - pooling and release
- Fresh frozen plasma - 30 minute thawing time minimum
- Platelet Concentrate
- Transfusion reaction work up
- Type & Screen
- Uncrossed packed cells, only when accompanied by a signed Emergency Transfusion Request
- Washed Cells

**Note:** A full crossmatch requires 60 minutes  
from the time of receipt of specimen in blood bank technical area.



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**CHEMISTRY** - The following tests may be ordered "STAT", 24 hours/day without prior consultation with the pathologist:

Alcohol, Ethyl, Serum	Hepatic Function Test
Ammonia, Blood	Intact PTH
Amylase, Blood or Fluid	Lactic Acid, Serum or CSF
AST	LDH, serum or CSF
Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP)	LDL, Direct
Beta HCG	Magnesium
Beta-OH Butyrate	Osmolality, Serum and/or Urine
Bilirubin, Total	Phosphorus
Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)	Potassium, Serum or Fluid
NT-Pro B-type Natriuretic Peptide (NT-pro BNP)	Procalcitonin
Calcium	Progesterone
Carbon Dioxide	Protein, Total, Serum, CSF or Fluid
Chloride	Sodium, Serum or Fluid
Cholesterol and Triglycerides (serum and body fluid)	Troponin T
CK (CPK)	T3, Total (Thyroxine, total)
Cortisol	T4, Free (Thyroxine, free)
Creatinine	TSH (Thyroid-stimulating hormone)
Electrolytes	Uric Acid
Estradiol	Vitamin B12
Glucose, Blood or Body Fluid	Vitamin D, 25-hydroxy
Fe (Iron)/TIBC	

The following tests may be ordered "**COLLECT STAT**", 24 hours/day, without prior consultation with the pathologist. Tests will be performed on the next day shift, or sent to a reference lab:

Toxicology Screen, Serum  
Any therapeutic drug whose level is critically time-dependent  
Folate

**URINALYSIS** - The following tests may be ordered "STAT", 24 hours/day without prior consultation with the pathologist:

Urinalysis, Complete  
Urinalysis, Routine Chemistry or Microscopic  
Urine Pregnancy Test  
Urine - specific gravity only



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**HEMATOLOGY & COAGULATION** - The following tests may be ordered "STAT", 24 hours/day without prior consultation with the pathologist:

Cell Count, CSF or Fluid  
CBC, CBCD plus Platelets  
D-Dimer  
Differential Count, Blood or Body  
Fluids  
Fetal Hemoglobin  
Fibrinogen  
Hematocrit  
Hemoglobin  
Infectious Mononucleosis Screen  
Platelet Count  
Platelet Mapping (LGH)  
Prothrombin Time  
Partial Thromboplastin Time  
Sedimentation Rate (ESR)  
Sickle Cell Test (Sickledex only) (LGH)  
Thrombin Time (LGH)  
TEG (Thromboelastogram) (LGH)

### **HISTOLOGY/CYTOLOGY** - NO STAT TESTS AVAILABLE

**MICROBIOLOGY** - The following tests may be ordered "STAT", 24 hours/day, without prior consultation with the pathologist:

Blood Cultures: May be requested "STAT" and this will be understood as "Collect STAT". No more than two blood cultures, one from each arm, will be collected per trip. No more than 4 sets in 24 hours.

Cultures: "STAT" priority, applied to a wide variety of "Routine" culture orders, will be Understood as an instruction to nursing service personnel to collect the specimen on a STAT basis. All culture specimens from O.R., tissue, and normally sterile body fluids received in Microbiology are plated promptly after receipt, 24 hours a day.

Gram stain: Preparation and staining

Molecular testing for microbial DNA/RNA in clinical samples



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**TOXICOLOGY AND THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING** - The following tests may be ordered "STAT", 24 hours/day without prior consultation with the pathologist:

Acetaminophen  
Carbamazepine (Tegretol)  
Digoxin  
Dilantin  
Gentamycin  
Lithium (LGH)  
Salicylates  
Valproic Acid  
Vancomycin

### **Consultations/Inquiries**

Technical or medical information, related to any of our services and procedures, is available. On nights and weekends, the laboratory office will identify the Laboratory Leader or pathologist "on call" for inquiries or problem solving, as needed.