Laboratory Examination Order Priorities

Routine

Orders designated routine are processed during normal hours of Laboratory operation ("normal" hours are facility specific).

- Routine orders received after facility specific "cut-off" times are processed on the following day.
- Routine pre-operative orders fall under this category and are not to be ordered as STAT, except after consultation with a laboratory physician

Results for most routine tests are available the same day; however, some tests are batched and/or referred to other laboratories for testing.

ASAP for CPOE sites/ System Utilization

Used to request a high priority sample but is prioritized after any STAT orders and processed ahead of routine work. ASAP is limited as an option only to CPOE sites.

Expect ASAP results*:	***If:***
Within 120 minutes of collection	The test is performed on site 24x7
Within 6 hours of collection	The test is performed at a site within close proximity to the collection location. e.g., collected at SPH, performed at RJH. or The test is performed on site or at a site within close proximity but requires special handling/analytical capabilities or call back.
Dependant on courier transport times	The test is collected in a remote location and sent to a hub laboratory for analysis. e.g., collected at TGH, performed at NRGH.

STAT

Used when a critical care situation exists.
Tests on the STAT List may be ordered as STAT priority at any Island Health Laboratory.

- If the test is performed on site, it will be collected and analyzed immediately if during posted laboratory hours. If after posted laboratory hours, call-back or non-laboratory Point of Care analysis may be available to expedite analysis.

- If the test is not performed in the local laboratory, it may be collected immediately and will be transported to the testing site. Turn around times are restricted by the geography of the region. In situations where the collection site is remote and transport

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demands excessive time, the ordering physician should consult the laboratory physician.

- If the TAT exceeds the established timelines outlined in the expected laboratory turnaround appendix, the specific discipline Medical Lead and Lead Technologist require notification for follow-up with the ordering program. Refer to overdue follow-up STAT timeline in expected laboratory turnaround table if results are not reported within standard TAT.

Expect STAT results*:	***If:***
Within 60 minutes of collection	The test is performed on site 24x7
Within 4 hours of collection	The test is performed at a site within close proximity to the collection location. e.g., collected at SPH, performed at RJH. or The test is performed on site or at a site within close proximity but requires special handling/analytical capabilities or call back.
Dependant on courier transport times	The test is collected in a remote location and sent to a hub laboratory for analysis. e.g., collected at TGH, performed at NRGH.

*Tests not included on the STAT list, but which are ordered at the same time and are tested on the same sample and analyzer as a stat test that is on the list are processed and reported collectively.

*****STAT gram stains on sterile body fluids may take up to 2 hours to complete.
*****Tests not included on the STAT list, but which are urgently required due to exceptional clinical circumstances will be processed on a STAT basis only after the ordering physician has consulted with a laboratory physician.

TIMED
To be used only in cases where a collection needs to be completed at a specific time for medically required treatment such as a drug level or critical follow-up (eg. Troponin).

- Timed collections are completed as close to the time requested as possible based on the available resources.

- The analysis of a timed sample is treated as routine with some exceptions where medical intervention is required.

See Appendix A1 for the complete list of Expected Turnaround Times which is posted on the internet for public viewing

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