North Mississippi Medical Center
Pathology Department
Policy #: 01.LAB.7020.0031.0316

Title: Test Collection Protocols

Rationale: Test collection protocols are needed to define time frames for specimen collection.

Policy: The following is a listing of test collection protocols:

1. STAT: Collected immediately.

2. Time Critical: Collected as close to ordered time as possible but no more than 30 minutes before or 30 minutes after. **Exception:** Trough and Peak Drug Levels have specified collection times. Refer to the Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Recommended Collection Times policy in Pathology’s Directory of Services.

3. Now: Collected within one hour of order time.

4. Chart by “Specified Time”:

   **NOTE:** The Pathology Department will make available results on the chart by “specified time” for the following tests:

   CBC (and components), PT, PTT, Heparin Xa, Fibrinogen, Retics, DIC Profile, Basic Chemistry Profiles and their components (Basic Metabolic, Comprehensive, Electrolyte, Hepatic Function, Renal), Magnesium, Phosphorus, Amylase, Lipase, Triglyceride, C-Reactive Protein, Cardiac Function Tests, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Tests, Urinalysis

   Chart by 0600: Collected after 0330 and resulted by 0600
   Chart by 0700: Collected after 0400 and resulted by 0700
   Chart by 0800: Collected after 0600 and resulted by 0800

   For other specified chart by times, specimens will be drawn within a 2 hour window before the designated chart by time.

5. AM Lab Draw: Will be drawn after 0600 and before 1200.

6. PM Lab Draw: Will be drawn after 1200 and before 1900.

7. Evening Lab Draw: Will be drawn after 1900 and before 2200.

8. Routine: Will be drawn within 6 hours of order.