

**ST. JOSEPH CLINICAL LABORATORY**

360 Broadway
Bangor, Me 04401

TURN AROUND TIME

PURPOSE: Turn around time for lab results should be established and reviewed to ensure adequate reporting times for patient test results. TAT is based on the time difference between when specimens are received in the Lab, to when the results are certified. In the instance of an instrument being down, the floors/ED are notified of the problem and given a time frame for when testing will resume. Any STAT testing can be sent to ALI if the need arises.

1.0 DEFINITIONS:

- 1.1 TAT:** Turn Around Time
- ALI:** Affiliated Laboratories, Inc.

2.0 STAT TESTING:

- 2.1** All stat tests should be completed within 1 hour from the time that it is received in the laboratory.

3.0 TIMED TESTING:

- 3.1** All timed tests, which are usually inpatient specimens, should be completed within 1 hour from the time that it is received in the laboratory.

4.0 ROUTINE AND ASAP TESTING:

- 4.1** Turn around time for all routine lab tests performed on site is same day testing.
- 4.2** Turn around time for ASAP Lab tests are as follows:
 - 4.1.1** Hematology: 2 hours
 - 4.1.2** UA: 2 hours
 - 4.1.3** Coagulation testing: 2 hours
 - 4.1.4** Chemistry profiles: 2 hours
 - 4.1.5** Serology Tests: Performed 2 times/week
 - 4.1.6** Blood Bank: Approximate turn- around time assuming blood sample in Lab. Add 25 minutes for phlebotomy and centrifugation of sample

Testing	Type & Screen	Cross match	Thaw FP24	Platelet-pheresis	Thaw Cryo	Antibody ID	Screen Units	Full Cross match	Emergency Release
Time as minutes or hours	35-45 Min	12-20 Min	45-60 Min.	15-25 Min	25-40 Min	1-3 Hours	1-2 Hours	35-45 Min	15 Min
Delay time: see below	Positive: see antibody ID	Screen Pos. see: Full Cross match		4-6 hours		Can be up to: 1-2 days	Can be up to: 1-2 days	Can be up to: 1-2 days	

There can be various delays to the routine listed times. Some reasons for delays are:

- 4.1.6.1** Unable to identify patient antibody – sample referred to ALI or if necessary ARC reference lab.
- 4.1.6.2** Depending upon the identified antibody, a request may have to be placed for antigen negative units from ARC or ALI.
- 4.1.6.3** If we have no platelets in house, we may need to request plateletpheresis from either CMMC, Lewiston or Maine General, Augusta. If none there, request STAT delivery from ARC, Dedham, MA. In true emergency AND IF ALI has extra platelets, we may get some from them.

5.0 REFERRAL TESTS:

- 5.1** Turn-around times for referral lab tests are dependent on the test and referral lab.

6.0 TAT FOR MICROBIOLOGY:

- 6.1** Urine cultures: 24-48 hours
- 6.2** Respiratory cultures: 48-72 hours
- 6.3** Wound cultures: Up to 7 days
- 6.4** O&Ps: 48 hours
- 6.5** Stool Cultures: 72 hours
- 6.6** C Diff: 24 hours
- 6.7** Surveillance Culture: 48 hours
- 6.8** CSF Culture: 72 hours

7.0 DELAYS:

- 7.1** In the event of any significant unexpected delay that may affect patient care, the appropriate person(s) will be notified.
- 7.2** This does not imply that all instances of delayed reporting for all tests require formal notification. It is at the discretion of the MT/MLT involved to make the determination if the delay is significant enough to warrant the notification.

