



Valley Medical Laboratories

TESTING TURNAROUND TIME

TURNAROUND TIME Terminology:

STAT:

- **Refers to life threatening medical emergencies.** Laboratory staff gives top priority to stat requests at the expense of other orders, therefore this priority should only be used when absolutely necessary.
- Turnaround time should be **no more than two hours** once the specimen has arrived at the laboratory.
- If the expected turnaround time is greater than 2 hours the physician's office will be notified.
- Results will be phoned and faxed to the physician's office immediately upon release.
- Note: patients suspected of having an acute coronary syndrome should NOT be sent to a Laboratory for an ECG and/or tests for cardiac markers. Rather, they should be sent to the nearest hospital Emergency Department.

URGENT:

- **Refers to tests that are required as soon as possible** but are not involved in life threatening medical emergencies.
- Turnaround times of **up to 4 hours** can be expected once the specimen has arrived at the laboratory.
- Results will be phoned and faxed to the physician's office.

ROUTINE:

- **Refers to a test that has not been flagged as STAT or URGENT.**
- **Turnaround time of 24-48 hours** once the specimen has arrived at the laboratory.
- Results from routine lab work are sent to Physicians via web-based Excelleris, hard copy or fax depending on the Physicians pre-selected method of resulting.
- If there is a critical result on routine laboratory work the Physicians office will be phoned and the critical results will also be faxed.

TESTS AVAILABLE ON A STAT BASIS:

CBC	MONOTEST	PT (INR)	PTT
Routine Chemistry		Routine Urinalysis	

NOTE – If STAT testing is required and the test is not on the above list please call the lab for specific test turnaround time.

Physicians are reminded that the turnaround times for tests ordered STAT are severely restricted by the geographic realities of couriating samples from our outlying labs to our analytical facilities in Penticton (no Chemistry or Microbiology) and Kelowna (main laboratory).