

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL**

LABORATORY REQUISITION PRIORITIES

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PURPOSE

To establish priority of lab services.

POLICY

As follows:

STAT - Abbreviation of the Latin word STATIM, meaning immediately. This is life threatening and collected within 15 minutes. It implies that the laboratory test value is vital and urgently needed for the effective management of the patient. These tests have priority over any other testing and will be done immediately and called to the nursing unit or physician.

ASAP – “As soon as possible”. Results should be available within 60 minutes. Most ED specimens not ordered as STATs will fall into this category. Missed priority orders should fall into this category. Specimens that have high priority but are not life threatening should be ordered and results ASAP. Only STATs qualify for the higher priority.

TIMED – Primarily used for drug levels and dosing. Specimens collected within \pm 15 minutes of requested time and run routine.

Next AM – All orders placed with this priority code will be collected with the next AM routine collection round. If this code is utilized the order is always placed the next early AM collection round after midnight.

ROUTINE – Specimens are collected with the next collection round and tested routinely. This priority code will be the default code. Most tests ordered routine and performed on-site will usually complete within 2 hours. Specimens ordered routine after 2200 and before 0330 will automatically roll over into the morning collections round. The early AM collection round will begin in the critical care units at 0430. All other units will follow thereafter.

Collection rounds will be at 0800, 1000, 1200, 1400, 1600, 1800, 2000, and 2200.

NOTE: All laboratory work will be regarded as routine unless otherwise specified. In addition, blood requested to be drawn while blood is infusing can be drawn. Include disclaimer, “blood drawn during transfusion” in comments when receiving the blood.