

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL**

STAT TURN-AROUND TIMES (TAT) AND PRIORITIES

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PURPOSE

To define the turn-around time (TAT) for laboratory testing.

POLICY

The following TAT will apply to laboratory testing done at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center.

STAT TESTING: 1 HOUR TAT FOR TESTS AS DESCRIBED IN STAT TESTING POLICY.

STAT Blood Bank work should be completed ASAP within one hour if no unexpected antibodies are present.

If multiple stats are received simultaneously, the technologist on duty has the authority to prioritize patient testing. Decisions will be made in communication with the nursing unit or physician. Any critical values or results that have changed drastically from previous patient reports will be called ASAP to the floor if an inpatient and to the physician if an outpatient, regardless of the priority of the test order. ASAP should be within 15 minutes. This is done in the patient's best interest so that treatment, if needed, can be started immediately.

When any result is called, the name of the receiving party, the time called, and the tech's initials will be entered into the "read back" comment. **Routine inpatient results will be available within four hours** of the draw time for most tests.

Routine outpatient testing will be completed within six hours of draw time, unless testing is done in batches on scheduled weekdays or is sent to an outside laboratory.

Any reason for delay in TAT should be called to ordering floor, or if outpatient (OP), to the physician. Delays may occur on off-shifts and weekends due to stat test volume and decreased staffing. Routine or non critical tests may be deferred to the morning or week day depending on the circumstances. Communication should be documented in Cerner.