

TESTING

ADD-ONS, CANCELLATIONS, REJECTIONS & RESULTS

Add-On Tests

The laboratory can arrange to do additional testing on previously collected specimens if sufficient specimen volume remains and the specimen meets time limit criteria for the requested testing. Accurate testing requires that some tests be completed within specified time limits after collection. Orders for add-on tests may be placed by phone; written confirmation will be required, usually by fax. Written requests for add-ons must clearly state that the requested test is an add-on to a previously collected specimen. The specimen collection date and time must be provided.

Test Cancellations

Once testing is initiated, requests for testing cancellation cannot be honored. Testing referred to a reference lab typically cannot be canceled. To cancel a test, contact the laboratory as soon as possible and if testing has not been initiated, the test order will be canceled.

Rejection of Specimens

Clinicians will be notified a specimen is being rejected for testing along with the reason why. If testing is still needed, the clinician will be encouraged to recollect and send another specimen.

The following represent some reasons for specimen rejection:

- Improper/incomplete specimen labeling
- Incomplete or incorrect laboratory requisition
- Insufficient or incorrect specimen quantity (QNS – quantity not sufficient)
- Incorrect specimen container or media
- Specimen collected/transported in expired tube or media
- Incorrect storage or transport conditions
- Incorrect specimen type (e.g. serum vs. plasma)
- Specimen stability has been exceeded for the analyte
- Specimen not allowed to clot completely at room temperature prior to centrifuging

Corrected Results

When a test result is corrected, a new report is generated and the ordering clinician is notified of the corrected result. The report notes the new result, the original result and the time corrected.