

LABORATORY



NEW VISION MEDICAL LABORATORIES PROVIDES FULL SERVICE LABORATORY SERVICES INCLUDING CLINICAL AND ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY TO ST. RITA'S MEDICAL CENTER AND VAN WERT COUNTY HOSPITAL AND LIMITED SERVICES TO THE ST. RITA'S PUTNAM COUNTY AMBULATORY CARE CENTER, ST. RITA'S DELPHOS AMBULATORY CARE CENTER, AND THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION, PREPARATION, AND HANDLING

INTRODUCTION

Laboratory tests contribute vital information about a patient's health. Correct diagnostic and therapeutic decisions rely, in part, on the accuracy of test results. Adequate patient preparation, specimen collection, and specimen handling are essential prerequisites for accurate testing. The accuracy of test results is dependent on the integrity of specimens. Proper identification of specimens is extremely important.

Specimens not properly labeled will not be accepted by our laboratory and will not be tested. The proper identification includes two patient identifiers (such as patient name and date of birth). Each specimen must also have a documented date and time collected, along with the identification of the person collecting it.

During specimen collection, preparation, and submission, there is a much greater possibility of critical error than during actual testing or examination of the specimen. Errors in storage and handling compromise the integrity of the specimen and, thus, the test results. Some special instructions are printed directly on the LIS computer label to assist in the collection of the specimens.

PREPARATION

Prior to each collection, review the laboratory's specimen collection requirements. Minimum requirements are available upon request.

PREPARING THE PATIENT

Provide the patient with the appropriate collection instructions and information on fasting, diet, and medication restrictions when necessary, prior to the procedure.

PREPARING THE SPECIMEN

Confirm identification in the presence of the patient and label all specimens before leaving the patient.

REPORT DELIVERY

Critical values are phoned directly to a nurse, pharmacist, or the physician. See APPENDIX for listing of critical values.

For any questions please call 419-226-9021.