North Oaks Reference Laboratory

2015 EDITION

Current as of January 2015

For the most current version of this manual, please go to www.northoaks.org/lab.

NorthOaks
Department of Laboratories

P.O. Box 2668 • Hammond, LA 70404 • (985) 230-6165 • www.northoaks.org/lab

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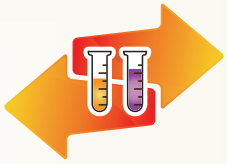
Courier Services

Laboratory courier services are available upon request.



Please contact your North Oaks Business Development Representative at (985) 230-1632.

Our Mission

"To provide Laboratory Services with Pride, Precision and Professionalism!"

North Oaks Reference Laboratory Offers:

Quality Standards

Accredited by:

- The Joint Commission (JCAHO)
- American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)
- College of American Pathologists (CAP)

Fast Turnaround of Results

- Same day testing (within 24-hours of receipt of specimen)
- Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including weekends and holidays)
- No batch processing with the exception of HA1C which is performed on day shift Monday through Friday.

High Standards of Accuracy

- Same day testing allows integrity of each specimen to remain intact.
- Specimen identification regulations ensure accurate testing for each patient.
- Testing is completed on an individual basis.

Personalized Service Based Upon Your Needs

- Laboratory courier services available upon request
- Delivery of needed supplies as requested
- Easy access to management and staff
- Streamlined processes to ensure best service to your institution

CHOOSE NORTH OAKS.

Hours of Operation, Staff and Contact Information

The Department of Laboratories of North Oaks Health System, located in Hammond, Louisiana, is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are at least two Medical Technologists on duty at all times.

The Medical Director of the Laboratory, a Board Certified Pathologist, is an active member of the Medical Staff and serves on several committees. The Laboratory Director is an MSA, MT (ASCP) BB, and is responsible for the daily operation of the Laboratory.

Testing is performed 24 hours daily on both a "STAT" and a “routine” basis. Current test methods and performance specifications are available upon request.

Key Telephone & Fax Numbers

Clerical/Information/Lab Results .....(985) 230-6165
Clerical Fax.....(985) 230-6485
Testing Requirements .....(985) 230-6768
Laboratory Director .....(985) 230-6925
Pathologists .....(985) 230-1262
Material Services Fax .....(985) 230-6486
Central Dispensing.....(985) 230-6692
Courier .....(985) 230-6254
Business Development Representative .....(985) 230-1632

Outpatient Laboratory Hours of Operation

- Outpatient Diagnostic Center: Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Admit Express at North Oaks Medical Center: Saturday 6 a.m.-12 noon
- North Oaks Livingston Parish Medical Complex: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Supplies

The North Oaks Department of Material Services will only provide supplies for laboratory testing only if that testing is to be submitted to North Oaks Medical Center.

Order forms will be sent to individual facilities upon request. They must be completed and faxed to **(985) 230-6486** on **Monday** of each week.

Supplies will be delivered between **8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday**. Please allow 3 days for delivery of supplies once ordered, not including the day the order was placed.

2013 CMS Approved Laboratory Panels

Acute Hepatitis Panel
Hepatitis A antibody (HAAb), IgM antibody
Hepatitis B core antibody (HbcAB), IgM antibody
Hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAg)
Hepatitis C antibody

Basic Metabolic Panel
Calcium
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Creatinine
Glucose
Potassium
Sodium
Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
Albumin
Alkaline Phosphatase
ALT (SGPT)
AST (SGOT)
Bilirubin, total
Calcium
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Creatinine
Glucose
Potassium
Sodium
Total Protein
Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Electrolyte Panel
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Potassium
Sodium

Hepatic Function Panel
Albumin
Alkaline Phospatase
ALT (SGPT)
AST (SGOT)
Bilirubin, direct
Bilirubin, total
Protein, total

Lipid Panel
Cholesterol
Cholesterol, HDL
Cholesterol, LDL
Cholesterol/HDL Ratio
Triglycerides

Renal Function Panel
Albumin
Calcium
Carbon Dioxide (CO2)
Chloride
Creatinine
Glucose
Phosphorus Inorganic
Potassium
Sodium
Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

Any panel or individual test ordered must be accompanied by proper medical justification. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Laboratories at (985) 230-6165.

Specimen Labeling Requirements

To ensure quality and accuracy in our testing, all specimens submitted to the North Oaks Department of Laboratories for processing **MUST BE PROPERLY LABELED** with a minimum of **TWO PATIENT IDENTIFIERS.** However, when more than two patient identifiers are submitted, the level of patient safety is improved. All collection information should also be provided to ensure specimen integrity.

ACCEPTABLE PATIENT IDENTIFIERS ARE THE PATIENT'S:

- First and Last Name
- North Oaks Medical Record Number (if available)
- Social Security Number
- Date of Birth.

In addition to the patient information, the specimen label also must contain all of the following collection information:

- Time of Collection
- Date of Collection
- Collector's Initials
- Facility Name (if possible)
- Source, if other than blood.

All specimen(s) must be labeled **INDIVIDUALLY**. Any improperly labeled specimen(s) will not be tested. The rejected specimen(s) will need to be recollected and resubmitted for testing.

NOTE: Specimens collected for cultures also must be labeled with the source of the specimen (i.e., left arm, right leg). Please identify urine specimens as either Clean Catch (CCMS) or Catheterization (CATH).

Collection Procedure: Venipuncture Using Vacutainer

1. Select a sterile needle, but do not remove the needle shield. Thread needle into holder until secure.
2. Select tube(s) appropriate for the type of sample(s) desired.
3. Tubes that contain additives should be gently tapped to dislodge any additive trapped around the stopper.
4. Select the site for venipuncture preparation.
5. Apply tourniquet and prepare site with an alcohol prep*. Allow alcohol to air dry.
6. Place patient's arm in a downward position.
7. Remove needle shield and perform venipuncture with the patient's arm in downward position.
8. Push tube to the end of the holder diaphragm of the tube stopper.**
9. Remove tourniquet when blood begins to fill tube not allowing back flow.
10. When all tubes for the test(s) desired have been collected, remove the last tube from the needle holder.
11. Withdraw the needle from the patient's arm with one swift motion, quickly applying gauze to the venipuncture site.
12. Apply immediate pressure to venipuncture site by applying direct pressure to the gauze placed over the venipuncture site, then let the patient apply pressure and hold arm slightly upward until bleeding has stopped, but don't let him/her bend the elbow.
    A bandage may be applied to the venipuncture site after 1-3 minutes, if the patient so desires.
13. Label tubes with all required information as outlined on page 6.

***Use betadine preps when collecting blood alcohol levels.**

****Tubes containing anticoagulants should be filled last to avoid carryover to other tubes. This ensures that they are mixed properly to avoid clotting of the specimen. See "order-of-draw" chart.**

NOTE: Tubes should be inverted gently 5-10 times after collection.

Collection Procedures: Venipuncture Using Syringe: Sterile

1. Select a syringe and inspect for cracks, chips, etc.
2. Select a sterile needle, but do not remove the needle shield. Push needle onto the syringe until a tight fit is achieved.
3. Select the tube(s) for the type of sample(s) desired.
4. Tubes that contain additives should be gently tapped to dislodge any additive trapped around the stopper.
5. Select the site for the venipuncture.
6. Apply tourniquet and prepare site with an alcohol prep. Allow alcohol to air dry.
7. Place the patient's arm in a downward position.
8. Remove the needle shield and perform the venipuncture with the patient's arm in a downward position.
9. Aspirate gently with the syringe plunger until the desired amount of blood is drawn. Aspiration should be gentle to avoid hemolysis. Do not **"force"** blood from syringe into proper collection tubes, let it flow naturally to avoid hemolysis.
10. Release the tourniquet when half of the desired blood is obtained.
11. Withdraw the needle from the patient's arm with one swift motion, quickly applying a gauze to the venipuncture site.
12. Press down on gauze for a short period of time. Then let the patient apply pressure and hold arm slightly upward until bleeding has stopped. A bandage may be applied to the venipuncture site after 1-3 minutes if the patient so desires.
13. Label tubes with all required information as outlined on page 6.

NOTE: Tubes should be inverted gently 5-10 times after collection.

Free-flowing Fingerstick

1. Wipe finger with an alcohol swab. Allow alcohol to air dry. (The ring or middle fingers are usually best to stick.)
2. Pierce finger with a sterile lancet.
3. Press area lightly. Wipe off first drop of blood with dry gauze.
4. Press area again and collect free-flowing blood as required for the test requested.
5. After all blood required is obtained, gently press a dry gauze on the site for 1-3 minutes. A bandage may be applied to the site after 1-3 minutes, if the patient so desires.

BD

Helping all people live healthy lives

BD Vacutainer® Order of Draw for Multiple Tube Collections

Designed for Your Safety

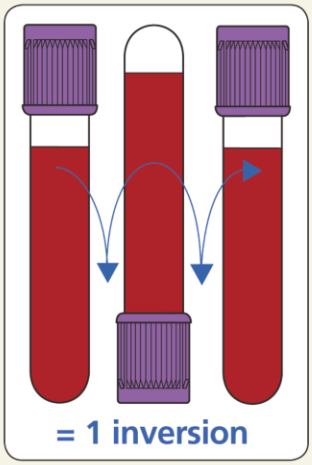
Reflects change in NCCLS recommended Order of Draw (NCCLS H3-A5, Vol 23, No 32, 8.10.2)

Closure Color	Collection Tube	Mix by Inverting
BD Vacutainer® Blood Collection Tubes *(glass or plastic)*		
	• Citrate Tube*	3 to 4 times
or	• BD Vacutainer® SST™ Gel Separator Tube	5 times
	• Serum Tube *(glass or plastic)*	5 times (plastic) none (glass)
	• Heparin Tube	8 to 10 times
or	• BD Vacutainer® PST™ Gel Separator Tube With Heparin	8 to 10 times
or	• EDTA Tube	8 to 10 times
	• Fluoride (glucose) Tube	8 to 10 times

* When using a winged blood collection set for venipuncture and a coagulation (citrate) tube is the first specimen tube to be drawn, a discard tube should be drawn first. The discard tube must be used to fill the blood collection set tubing's "dead space" with blood but the discard tube does not need to be completely filled. This important step will ensure maintenance of the proper blood-to-additive ratio of the blood specimen. The discard tube should be a nonadditive or coagulation tube.

Note: Always follow your facility's protocol for order of draw

Handle all biologic samples and blood collection "sharps" (lancets, needles, luer adapters and blood collection sets) according to the policies and procedures of your facility. Obtain appropriate medical attention in the event of any exposure to biologic samples (for example, through a puncture injury) since they may transmit viral hepatitis, HIV (AIDS), or other infectious diseases. Utilize any built-in used needle protector if the blood collection device provides one. BD does not recommend reshielding used needles, but the policies and procedures of your facility may differ and must always be followed. Discard any blood collection "sharps" in biohazard containers approved for their disposal.



BD Global Technical Services
1.800.631.0174

BD Customer Service
1.888.237.2762
www.bd.com/vacutainer

BD Diagnostics
Preanalytical Systems
1 Becton Drive
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
www.bd.com/vacutainer

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Instructions for Collecting a 24-hour Urine Specimen

Your doctor has ordered a test for you that requires a 24-hour urine specimen. Please follow the directions below to get a good specimen.

1. We have given you both a large and a small container for use in your collection process. Please use the containers we provide.
2. When you awaken in the morning, empty your bladder. You do NOT keep this specimen. Write this time as your start time.
3. For the next 24 hours, every time you urinate (empty your bladder), catch your urine in the little container provided and then pour it into the large container.
4. An accurate test result depends on a total 24-hour collection of all urine passed during the period.
5. Please keep the specimen on ice or in the refrigerator during the collection process and until delivered to the laboratory.
6. Bring the specimen to one of the following locations as soon as possible after you finish collecting it:
   - Outpatient Diagnostic Center: Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
   - Admit Express at North Oaks Medical Center: Saturday 6 a.m.-12 noon
   - North Oaks Livingston Parish Medical Complex: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
7. Creatinine Clearance testing also requires a blood specimen. Your blood specimen will be drawn at the time you return specimen container.

If you have any questions during your collection process, please feel free to call us at **(985) 230-6768**.

*Please make copies to distribute to your patients or visit www.northoaks.org/lab.

Name:	**Collection Start Date:** / /
Height (inches):	**Weight:** Kg. | Lbs.
Time Test Began:	**Time Test Ended:**

Collection Tests Guidelines for a 24-hour Urine Specimen

A 24-hour urine collection should be kept refrigerated or on ice until delivered to the laboratory for testing.

The following tests are performed by a reference laboratory and require no preservative at the time of collection.

- 5-HIAA
- 18-Hydroxycortisol
- Calcium
- Catecholamines
- Citric Acid
- Cortisol (Free)
- Cortisone
- Heavy Metals
- Homovanillic Acid
- Magnesium
- Metanephrines
- Oxalate
- Phosphorus
- Porphyrins
- UPEP
- Uric Acid
- VMA
- Zinc

The tests listed below are performed by the North Oaks Medical Center Testing Laboratory and require no preservative.

- BUN
- Creatinine Clearance
- Potassium
- Protein
- Sodium

If information is needed for other testing not listed, please call the North Oaks Medical Center Laboratory at (985) 230-6165 or (985) 230-6768.

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Aminoglycosides	Recommended Sampling Times	
Amikacin Sulfate (Amikin)	PEAK:	1 hour after IM injection, 30-60 minutes after IV infusion ends
	TROUGH:	Just prior to next dose
Gentamicin Sulfate (Cidomycin, Garamycin, Gentamicin Sulfate ADD-Vantage, Jenamicin)	PEAK:	1 hour after IM injection, 30-60 minutes after IV infusion ends
	TROUGH:	Just prior to next dose
Streptomycin Sulfate	PEAK:	1 hour after IM injection
	TROUGH:	Just prior to next dose
Tobramycin Sulfate (Nebcin)	PEAK:	1 hour after IM injection, 30-60 minutes after IV infusion ends
	TROUGH:	Just prior to next dose

***Do not collect blood in heparinized tube as heparin is incompatible with aminoglycosides.**

Generic Drug Name/Brand Name	Recommended Sampling Times	
Vancomycin Hydrochloride	PEAK:	60 minutes after infusion ends
	TROUGH:	Just prior to next dose
THEOPHYLLINE (Aminophylline)	PEAK:	2 hours after oral dose 30 minutes after completion of IV dose
	TROUGH:	Just prior to next dose

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Generic Drug Name/Brand Name	Recommended Sampling Times
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
N-ACETYLPROCAINAMIDE (NAPA)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
AMITRIPTYLINE (Elavil)	TROUGH: 12-14 hours after dose
CARBAMAZEPINE (Tegretol)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
CHLORAMPHENICOL (Chloromycetin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
CHLORDIAZEPOXIDE (Librium)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
CHLORPROMAZINE (Thorazine)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
CIMETIDINE (Tagamet)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
CLONAZEPAM (Klonopin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
DESIPRAMINE (Norpramin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
DIAZEPAM (Valium)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
DIGOXIN	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
DISOPYRAMIDE (Norpace)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
DOXEPIN (Sinequan)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
ETHOSUXIMIDE (Zarontin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
IMIPRAMINE (Tofranil)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
LIDOCAINE (Xylocaine)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
LITHIUM (Eskalith)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
NORTRIPTYLINE (Aventyl, Pamelor)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PHENOBARBITAL (Nembutal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PHENOBARBITAL (Luminal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PHENYTOIN (Dilantin)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PRIMIDONE (Mysoline)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PROCAINAMIDE (Pronestyl)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PROPRANOLOL (Inderal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
PROTRIPTYLINE (Vivactyl)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
QUINIDINE	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
SALICYLIC ACID (Salicylate)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
THIOPENTAL (Pentothal)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose
VALPROIC ACID (Depakene)	TROUGH: Just prior to next dose

References: Nursing 2007 Drug Handbook, Springhouse Corporation

Available Testing (by department)

CHEMISTRY

- Access CK-MB
- Acetaminophen
- Albumin
- Alcohol
- Alkaline Phosphatase
- ALT
- Ammonia
- Amylase
- AST
- Basic Metabolic Panel
- BHCG
- Bilirubin
  Direct
  Indirect
  Total
  Neonatal
- BUN
- Calcium
- Carbamazepine
- Cortisol (Serum)
- CSF Glucose
- CSF Lactic Acid
- CSF Protein
- Cholesterol
  LDL
  HDL
  Total
  HDL/LDL
- Chloride
- Carbon Dioxide
- Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
- CPK
- Creatinine Clearance
- Creatinine
- CRPH
- Digoxin
- Electrolyte Panel
- Estradiol
- Gentamycin
- Ferritin
- Folate (Serum)
- Free Thyroxine Index
- FT3
- Glucose
  1 Hour – Post Glucola
  2 Hour – Post Prandial
- GGT
- Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT: includes fasting and other times as indicated)
  2 Hour
  3 Hour
  4 Hour
  5 Hour
- Hemoglobin A1C
- Hepatic Function Panel
- Hypersensitive hTSH (Human Thyroid Stimulating Hormone)
- Iron
- Lactic Acid
- Lactose Tolerance
- LDH
- Lipase
- Lipid Profile
- Lithium
- Magnesium
- NPA (B-type Natriuretic Peptide)
- Phenobarbitol
- Phenytoin
- Phosphorus
- Potassium
- Prealbumin
- Prostate Specific Antigen
- PTH (INTACT)
- Renal Panel
- Salicylate
- Sodium
- T3 Free
- T4 Free and Total
- Theophylline
- TIBC - Calculated
  % Saturation with Iron & Transferrin
- Total Protein
- Total Testosterone
- Triglycerides
- Troponin I
- Uric Acid
- Urine
  Urea (Nitrogen – 24 hour)
  Amylase (2 hour)
  Potassium (Random & 24 hour)
  Protein (Random & 24 hour)
  Sodium (Random & 24 hour)
  Creatinine (Random & 24 hour)
  Urine Drug Screens
  Microalbumin (Random)
- Valproic Acid
- Vancomycin
- Vitamin B-12

Available Testing (by department)

PATHOLOGY
(Both must be scheduled.)
(M-F, 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.)
- Bone Marrow
- Fine Needle Aspirate

HEMATOLOGY
- Body Fluid Count
- CBC or any part
- Crystal Exam
- Differential (WBC)
- Nasal Eosinophil Smear
- Reticulocyte Count
- Sedimentation Rate
- Spinal Fluid Exam

COAGULATION
(Patient must be scheduled.)
- D-Dimer
- Fibrinogen
- Prothrombin time
- PTT
- PFS (Platelet Function Screen) (Recommended Instead of Bleeding Time)

SEROLOGY
- Cold Agglutination
- Fetal Fibronectin (FFN)
- Fetal Membranes Rupture (ROM+) Test
- Group B Strep Latex (CSF, Serum)
- HCG – Urine/Serum
- HIV Screen (Employee/Inpatient Only)
- Influenza A/B
- Meningitis Panel
  CSF
  Serum
  Urine (Except Group B Strep)
- Mono Test
- Osmolality (Serum + Urine)
- RA (Rheumatoid Factor)
- RPR (Rapid Plasma Reagin)
- RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)
- Strep A (Rapid Strep)

BACTERIOLOGY
- Blood Cultures
- Direct AFB Stain
- Fungal Cultures
- Gram Stain
- India Ink
- KOH Prep
- MRSA PCR
- MRSA Screen
- Routine Aerobic C/S
- Routine Anaerobic
- Stool Culture (no diapers)
- Urease Test for H. pylori
- Wet Prep (Within 1 hr. of Collection)

URINALYSIS
- Clinitest for reducing substances
- Complete Urinalysis or any part
- Eosinophil Count (Urine)
- Specific Gravity – Refractometer

PARASITOLOGY
- C. Difficile Toxin A/B
- Cryptosporidium Antigen
- GSA – Giardia Specific Antigen
- Occult Blood (stool)
- Occult Blood (gastric)
- Ova, Cysts and Parasites
- Parasite Identification (non-stool samples: Worm, bug or other)
- pH (Stool and Body Fluids)
- Pin Worm Prep
- Rotavirus
- Stool for Leukocytes
- Stool for Reducing Substances
- Trichrome Stain

BLOOD BANK
- Cord Blood Study (Type, Rh, DAT)
- Compatibility Testing (Crossmatch)
- Component Therapy
  Red Blood Cells
  Platelets
  FFP
  Cryoprecipitate
- Type and Screen
- Antibody Identification
- Transfusion Reaction Workup
- Neonatal Type and DAT
- Type and Rh
- DAT (Direct Antiglobulin Test)
- Rh Immune Globulin Screen
- Antigen Type (Specific Antigen)

Pathology Services

Cytology

GYN: Pap Specimen Collection and Handling

Liquid transport media are preferred for gynecological cytology specimens. Two such systems are available: SurePath Pap Test and ThinPrep Pap Test.

A. SurePath Pap Test Specimen Collection and Handling (The CytoBrush GT is not intended for use in pregnant women.)

1. Complete the Cytopathology requisition.
2. Record the patient's name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, collection date and time on vial.
3. Select contoured end of Pap Perfect plastic spatula and rotate 360° around the entire exocervix while maintaining tight contact with exocervical surface.
4. Visually locate the notched score line on the side of the spatula handle, about 4 cm from the contoured collection end. With gloved hand(s) and one single, quick, and firm SNAP, separate the contoured end from the rest of the spatula handle. Do not touch the collection end. Drop this contoured collection end into a vial of SurePath preservative labeled with the patient's information. Discard remaining handle device end of the spatula after each use. Place cap on vial until Step 6; do not tighten cap.
5. Obtain an adequate sampling from the endocervix using an endocervical brush device. Insert Cytobrush Plus GT device into the endocervix until only the bottom-most bristles are exposed at the os. Slowly rotate ¼-½ turn in one direction. To reduce unnecessary bleeding, do not over-rotate brush. DO NOT ROTATE BRUSH MORE THAN ½ TURN. Over-rotation may result in poor sample collection. Remove Cytobrush device.
6. Visually locate the notched score line on the side of the Cytobrush handle, about 4 cm from the brush tip. With gloved hands and one single, quick and firm SNAP, separate the brush head-short handle from the rest of brush handle. Do not touch collection end. Drop brush head-short handle into the same vial of SurePath preservative. Discard remaining device handle end of Cytobrush.
7. Tighten the SurePath vial cap so the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial. Place SurePath vial and a completed requisition in a specimen bag and transport to the laboratory.

Pathology Services

Cytology (continued)

B. ThinPrep Pap Test Specimen Collection and Handling (The CytoBrush GT is not intended for use in pregnant women.)

1. Complete the Cytopathology requisition.
2. Record the patient's name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, collection date and time on the vial.
3. Select contoured end of Pap Perfect plastic spatula and rotate 360° around the entire exocervix while maintaining tight contact with the exocervical surface.
4. Immediately rinse the spatula in the PreservCyt Solution vial by swirling vigorously in the vial **10 times.**
5. Obtain an adequate sampling from the endocervix using an endocervical brush device. Insert the brush into the endocervix until only the bottom-most bristles are exposed at the os. Slowly rotate ¼-½ turn in one direction. To reduce unnecessary bleeding, do not over-rotate brush. DO NOT ROTATE BRUSH MORE THAN ½ turn. Over-rotation may result in poor sample collection.
6. Rinse the brush in the PreservCyt Solution by rotating the device in the solution **10 times** while pushing against the PreservCyt vial wall. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. If material is still visible on the bristles, then scrape the bristles with the spatula staying within the fluid. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material. **Discard the brush. Do not let the brush sit in the vial.**
7. Tighten the cap so that the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial. Place the vial and a completed requisition in a specimen bag and transport to the laboratory.

NON-GYN: Specimens include Cyst, Brushings, FNA's, Skin Lesion, Sputum, Urine, Lymph node

- **Brushings, Smear:** Upon making slides, ***place immediately in fixative***. DO NOT let air-dry.
- **FNA's**: It is recommended two drops of specimen be placed on the slide. Cover the slide with another slide, and pull the two slides apart to make the smear. ***Place immediately in fixative***. DO NOT let air-dry.
- **Urine, Sputum or Body Fluids:** DO NOT require a fixative if submitted to the laboratory within two hours of collection.

1. Complete a Cytopathology requisition.
2. Label specimen container with patient's name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, date and time of collection. Slides should be labeled with patient's last name, first initial and date.
3. Specimens should be submitted in a sterile container with or without fixative. Appropriate Fixatives are CytoLyt Solution, Ethyl Alcohol, and Isopropyl.
4. Submit fluid fixed with a minimum of 10 mL of fixative. Specimens larger than 10 mL should be fixed with a volume of fixative equal to the volume of the specimen.

Pathology Services

Flow Cytometry

(Please contact the Laboratory if collecting Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.)

NON-GYN (FNA's, Skinny Needle Biopsy)

1. Place aspirated Non-Gyn material into a 15 mL tube containing RPMI solution. (At least 2 or 3 pieces if needle biopsy specimen and 2 or 3 passes if needle aspirate)
2. Transport specimen to Laboratory ASAP.
3. **ONLY use RPMI fixative, do not use formalin or saline.**

TISSUE BIOPSY

1. Place tissue into a 15 mL tube containing RPMI solution. (At least 5x5 mm fragment of tissue)
2. Transport specimen to Laboratory ASAP.
3. **ONLY use RPMI fixative, do not use formalin or saline**.

PERIPHERAL BLOOD/BONE MARROW

1. Specimens should be submitted in a green Sodium Heparin tube ambient temperature.

Pathology/Tissue

1. Complete the Pathology requisition.
2. Record the patient's name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, collection date and time, clinical/pre-op diagnosis, pertinent clinical history, specific anatomic location of tissue removed and the procedure on the requisition.
3. After biopsy collection, immediately place each specimen in a tightly secured container with 10% neutral buffered formalin. Use only formalin bottles supplied by Quest Diagnostics. Formalin must surround the specimen for proper fixation. Formalin volume to specimen ratio should be 10:1.
4. Use a separate container for each separately identified specimen.
5. Label each container wall (not the lid) with the name, DOB, MRN or Social Security Number, date and time of collection and specimen source.
6. Transport the specimen and the completed requisition to the Laboratory.

Cytogenetics

PRODUCTS OF CONCEPTION

1. Place tissue into a 15 mL tube containing Hanks, Ringers solution.
2. Transport specimen to Laboratory ASAP.
3. **ONLY use Hanks, Ringers solution, do not use formalin or saline.**
4. Place at least a 5x5 mm size tissue fragment.

Please call (985) 230-6165 for any additional information concerning Cytology or Pathology request. Special media such as Hanks, Ringers solution and RMPI fixative can be obtained from the Laboratory. Please call (985) 230-6768.

Transporting Infectious Substances

1. Specimens must be packaged in 2-pocket biohazard bags. Specimens must be in 1 pocket, and paperwork (orders) must be in the other pocket.

2. Specimens must be labeled with all required information as outlined on page 6.

3. Specimens must be placed in an insulated container until transported to the North Oaks Laboratory.

4. Between the primary biohazard bag and the ice packs, there must be absorbent material sufficient to soak up the entire contents of the primary bag.

NOTE: Specimens for chemistry tests that are in plain red top tubes or non-centrifuged SST tubes are stable for 2 hours only.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	Acetaminophen (ACTMN)
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Alias Name: Tylenol

Test Name:	Albumin
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Alcohol
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Only stable for 1 hour if tube has been stoppered
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Use a non-alcoholic germicidal solution for skin prep.

Test Name:	Alkaline Phosphatase
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	ALT
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Ammonia (NH3)
Preferred Specimen:	**Lithium Heparin green top tube**
Stability:	Send to Lab within 30 minutes from draw time in iced tube.
Transport Temperature:	Send specimen on ice.
Special Instructions:	Ice tube prior to collection. Send specimen to Lab on ice.

Test Name:	Amylase
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: AST (SGOT)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Basic Metabolic Panel (BMP)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Bilirubin Direct

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.

Test Name: Bilirubin Total

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.

Test Name: Blood Culture (Adult)

Preferred Specimen:	**1 BacT/Alert Aerobic Bottle** **1 BacT/Alert Anaerobic Bottle**
Stability:	Minimum: transport as quickly as possible; Maximum: 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Special Instructions:	Collect 5 mL whole blood in each bottle.

Test Name: Blood Culture (Pediatric)

Preferred Specimen:	**1 BacT/Alert Pediatric Bottle**
Stability:	Minimum: transport as quickly as possible; Maximum: 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Special Instructions:	Collect 0.5-4 mL whole blood in bottle; only used on pediatric or “hard stick” patients.

Test Name: BODY FLUID: COUNT

Preferred Specimen:	**Green Top (heparin) tube**
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165.
Transport Temperature:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165.
Special Instructions:	Must contact Hematology at (985) 230-6948.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	BUN
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Calcium
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Carbamazepine
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Alias Name: Tegretol; Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Cholesterol
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Chloride
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	CKMB
Preferred Specimen:	**Lithium Heparin green top**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Clostridium Difficile

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool in sterile container**
Stability:	Refrigerated or frozen within 24 hours of collection. May be kept 4 days refrigerated.
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of soft stool, not indicated on formed stools

Test Name: CO2

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Cold Agglutinin

Preferred Specimen:	**Plain red top tube**
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165.
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature
Special Instructions:	No refrigeration. Specimens greater than 2 hours are unacceptable. Minimum volume of 5 mL required

Test Name: Complete Blood Count (CBC)

Preferred Specimen:	**1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours; Room Temperature 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.

Test Name: Cortisol (Serum)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Suggested draw times: 8-10 a.m. or 4-6 p.m.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	CPK
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 12 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Creatinine
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Crystal Exam
Preferred Specimen:	**Fluid in Sodium Heparin green tube**
Stability:	Room temperature 48 hours; Refrigerated 1 week
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Cryptosporidium, Antigen
Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Fresh stored at 2-8°C and tested within 1 hour.
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name:	CSF (Glucose)
Preferred Specimen:	**CSF fluid in sterile container**
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Transport Temperature:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.

Test Name:	CSF (Protein)
Preferred Specimen:	**CSF fluid in sterile container**
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Transport Temperature:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469.

Test Name:	CSF (Cell Count)
Preferred Specimen:	**CSF fluid in sterile container**
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6948.
Transport Temperature:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6948.
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6948.

Test Name:	Culture (Stool)
Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool; NO DIAPERS. Screw top containers preferred.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Culture (Urine)

Preferred Specimen:	**Urine**
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours unpreserved / 48 hours preserved
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	B-D collection system (gray tops) preferred
NOTE:	**MUST** be labeled as urine cath or clean catch (This will determine work-up guidelines.)

Test Name: Culture Wound

Preferred Specimen:	**Culturette with gel or foam at bottom**
Stability:	48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature or refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Please label the swab with the site of culture. *(ex. left arm, right leg, hip, buttock, mouth, etc.)*

Test Name: D-Dimer

Preferred Specimen:	**Whole blood in sodium-citrate tube**
Stability:	Room temperature 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Fill tube to line.

Test Name: Digoxin

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: Dilantin

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Alias name: Phenytoin; Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: Estradiol

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL

Test Name: Fecal Leukocyte

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours; Room Temperature tested within 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Do not freeze.
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	Ferritin
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Folate
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Refigerated 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	**Protect tube from light. Fasting specimen is preferred.**

Test Name:	Gentamycin Peak
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as “PEAK.” Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Gentamycin Random
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as “RANDOM”.

Test Name:	Gentamycin Trough
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as “TROUGH.” Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	GGT
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Giardia Antigen

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Fresh stored at 2-8°C and tested within 1 hour.
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name: Glucose

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Glucose Tolerance Test

Preferred Specimen:	**Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 for instructions.**

Test Name: Gram Stain

Done on following CXS:	**Wounds, fluids, respiratory and CSF (stats from surgery)**
Stability:	48 hours when in transport media
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	On routine CXS (wounds, fluids respiratory and CSF), a gram stain is automatically included.

Test Name: Group B Streptococcus

Preferred Specimen:	**CSF or Serum Room Temperature (ASAP) sep**
Stability:	Refrigerated for 48 hours separated from cells Frozen 48 hours at -20°C
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL serum or CSF

Test Name: HCG, Quantitative

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 8 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: HDL

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged: 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Hematocrit

Preferred Specimen:	**1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability:	Room temperature 24 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Hemoglobin

Preferred Specimen:	**1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability:	Room temperature 24 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Hemoglobin A1C

Preferred Specimen:	**1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability:	Room temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 7 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Hepatic Function Panel (HFP)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Protect tube from light.

Test Name: Influenza A and B

Preferred Specimen **1**:	**Nasal Wash 0.5-3 mL**
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours at 2-8°C
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Collect nasal washes in standard containers. Test as soon as possible. Washes can be held at 2-8°C for up to 24 hours prior to testing in the BinaxNOW© Test.
Preferred Specimen **2**:	**Nasopharyngeal (N.P.) Swab**
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours at 2-8°C
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Use sterile cotton, rayon, foam, polyester or flocked flexible-shaft N.P. swabs to collect nasopharyngeal sample. E-swabs are acceptable.
Preferred Specimen **3**:	**Nasal Swab**
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours at 2-8°C
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Use sterile cotton, rayon, foam, polyester or flocked solid shaft swabs to collect nasal swab sample.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Iron

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Lactic Acid (LA)

Preferred Specimen:	**Grey top tube (potassium oxalate)**
Stability:	Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165.
Transport Temperature:	Send to Lab within 15 minutes of draw time in iced tube.
Special Instructions:	Ice tube prior to collection; send specimen to Lab on ice.

Test Name: Lactose Tolerance Test

Special Instructions:	**Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 for instructions.**

Test Name: LDH

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature or Refrigerated 2 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Lipase

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Lithium

Preferred Specimen:	**SST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: Lytes (Electrolytes)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Magnesium (Mg)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Meningitis Panel

Preferred Specimen:	**SST**
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours; (2-8°C) separated from cells
Transport Temperature:	Frozen -20°C
Special Instructions:	Call Laboratory for Neonate Instructions
Minimum Volume:	2 mL serum for adults

Test Name: Mono

Preferred Specimen:	**SST**
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours (2-8°C)
Transport Temperature:	Frozen below -10°C; tested within 3 months
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL

Test Name: Nasal Eosinophil Smear

Preferred Specimen:	**Air Dried Slide**
Special Instructions:	Smear nasal discharge on the slide and let air dry; label slide with required patient information.

Test Name: Naturetic Peptide Assay (NPA) or (BNP)

Preferred Specimen:	**1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability:	Room temperature 4 hours or refrigerated
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Neonatal Bilirubin (NBIL)

Preferred Specimen:	**Green top microtainer**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	**Protect tube from light.**

Test Name: OCBA (Occult Blood)

Preferred Specimen:	**Gastric, Emesis**
Stability:	Room temperature 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature
Special Instructions:	(None)
Minimum Volume:	1 mL

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Occult Blood (OCB)

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room Temperature 24 hours
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name: Osmolality (Serum and Urine)

Preferred Specimen:	**Serum: SST**
	Urine: Capped container with No preservatives
Stability:	Serum: Non-centrifuged 3 hours
	Serum: C&S: Room Temperature 3 hours; Refrigerated 10 hours
	Urine: Room Temperature 3 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated Serum and Urine
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL

Test Name: Ova, Cyst, Parasites (OCP)

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature 24 hours
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	2 mL liquid stool or 2 gm of solid stool

Test Name: Parasite ID

Preferred Specimen:	**Non-stool (sputum, skin or whole organism)**
Stability:	24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature 24 hours
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Parathyroid Hormone Intact (PTH)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours
	C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT)

Preferred Specimen:	**Whole blood in Buffered Na Citrate (light blue tube)**
Stability:	Room temperature 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature
Special Instructions:	Fill tube to line.

Test Name: pH, Body Fluid

Preferred Specimen:	**Sterile container**
Stability:	Refrigerated 1 hour
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature 1 hour
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: pH, Stool

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Room temperature 1 hour; Refrigerated 24 hours at 2-8°C
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name: Phenobarbital (PHNO)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: Phosphorus

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Pinworms Examination

Preferred Specimen:	**Pinworm prep device (swube tube)**
Stability:	Room temperature 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature 24 hours
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name: Platelet Function Studies

Preferred Specimen:	**3.2% NaCitrate (Blue) Fill to line**
Stability:	4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Send to Lab within 2 hours of collection Room Temperature Only; Do Not Centrifuge
Special Instructions:	Call laboratory prior to collecting at (985) 230-6948.

Test Name: Potassium (K)

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Avoid hemolysis

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Prealbumin

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Protein/Creatinine Ratio

Preferred Specimen:	**Urine-Random**
Stability:	Room temperature 2 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Protein, Total

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Prothrombin Time (PT)

Preferred Specimen:	**Whole blood in Buffered Na Citrate (light blue tube)**
Stability:	Room temperature 8 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature
Special Instructions:	Fill tube to line.

Test Name: PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen)

Preferred Specimen:	**SST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Reducing Substances

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Room temperature 1 hour
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name: Renal Function Panel

Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Reticulocyte Count (RETIC)

Preferred Specimen:	**1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Rheumatoid Factor (RA Latex)

Preferred Specimen:	**SST**
Stability:	Room temperature 8 hours, refrigerated 8 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name: Rotavirus

Preferred Specimen:	**Stool**
Stability:	Refrigerated 72 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated (2-8°C)
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum volume:	1 mL liquid stool or 1 gm of solid stool

Test Name: RPR (Quantitative Titer)

Preferred Specimen:	**SST**
Stability:	Room temperature 5 hours. Refrigerated 5 days (separated from cells)
Transport Temperature:	Frozen -20°C (1 week)
Special Instructions:	No CSF
Minimum volume:	1 mL

Test Name: RSV

Preferred Specimen **1**:	**(0.5-3 mL) Nasal Wash in sterile container**
Stability:	Room temperature 4 hours, Refrigerated (2-8°C) for 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	**Nasal Wash:** Collect wash samples in standard collection cups. Use procedures appropriate for age of the patient.
Preferred Specimen **2**:	**Nasopharyngeal (N.P.) Swab**
Stability:	Room temperature 4 hours, Refrigerated (2-8°C) for 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	**Nasopharyngeal Swabs:** Polyester, rayon, foam, cotton and flocked nasopharyngeal swabs, all with flexible shafts, have been evaluated and found to be acceptable for use in the BinaxNOW© test. Add swab specimens to 0.5-3.0 mL of a suitable liquid transport system within one hour of collection. E-swabs are acceptable.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

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PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name: Salicylate

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: Alias Name: Aspirin; Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name: Sedimentation Rate (ESR)

Preferred Specimen: **1 EDTA (purple)**
Stability: Room temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: Do not centrifuge.

Test Name: Sodium (Na)

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: Spinal Fluid Exam

Special Instructions: Call the Laboratory at (985) 230-6948 or (985) 230-6469 for instructions

Test Name: Strep A Screen

Preferred Specimen: **Use a polyester swab. Do not use a cotton swab. Rayon transport swabs containing modified Stuart's or Amies liquid medium also may be used. (Do not crush ampule, do not put swab in gel)**
Stability: Room temperature up to 8 hours
Transport Temperature: In sterile tube; Refrigerated 72°
Special Instructions: None.

Test Name: T3, Free

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours
C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Test Name: T4 (Total)

Preferred Specimen: **PST**
Stability: Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature: Refrigerated
Special Instructions: None

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

SST = Serum Separated Tube | C&S = Centrifuged & Separated
PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	T4 (Free)
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 48 hours; C&S Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Theophylline (Theo)
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Testosterone, Total
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours; C&S Room Temperature 8 hours, Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	Tobramycin Peak
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as “PEAK.” Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Tobramycin Random
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours or refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as “Random”.

NOTE: If a Free & Total is ordered, both will be sent to the Reference Lab for testing

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

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PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	**Tobramycin Trough**
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as "TROUGH." Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	**Triglycerides**
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	**Troponin I**
Preferred Specimen:	**Li Heparin green top tube**
Stability:	Room temperature or refrigerated 2 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Must be received within 1 hour of collection

Test Name:	**Uric Acid**
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None

Test Name:	**Urinalysis**
Preferred Specimen:	**Urine 10 mL**
Stability:	Room temperature 2 hours or 24 hours refrigerated
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	UMAC: urine chemistry (Ketones, Sp. G, Bld, Glu, Nit, Leuk, Bilirubin, pH, Protein, Urobilinogen) UMIC: urine microscope (WBC-RBC-Casts, Bact epi)
Minimum Volume:	1 mL

Test Name:	**Urine 24-hour Collection**
	(Creatinine clearance, Potassium, Sodium, Protein, Urea Nitrogen, Amylase)
Preferred Specimen:	**24-hour urine collection plain jug**
Stability:	Refrigerated 48 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Keep specimens on ice or refrigerated during collection. Submit patient's height and weight. Instruction form must be filled out and submitted with the urine container. Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6165 for additional information.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

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PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	Urine Drug Screen
Preferred Specimen:	**25 cc urine**
Stability:	Send to Laboratory within 4 hours of collection; Refrigerated 7 days
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	SCREEN ONLY. Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 if confirmation is needed for positive results.

Test Name:	Urine Eosinophil Count
Preferred Specimen:	**Urine in Sterile Container**
Stability:	Room temperature 2 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated 24 hours
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum Volume:	1 mL

Test Name:	Urine or Serum (Qualitative) Pregnancy Test
Preferred Specimen:	**Urine or Serum SST**
Stability:	24 hours room temperature or 48 hours refrigerated (2-8°C)
Transport Temperature:	Frozen (-20°C) Serum: 24 hours room temperature up to 48 hours (2-8°C)
Special Instructions:	Screen Only. Call Laboratory at (985) 230-6469 if confirmation is needed for positive results.
Minimum volume:	1 mL

Test Name:	Urine Specific Gravity
Preferred Specimen:	**Urine - 10 mL**
Stability:	Room temperature 2 hours or refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	None
Minimum volume:	1 mL

Test Name:	Valproic Acid
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 13 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	Vancomycin Peak
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Label tube as “PEAK.” Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Available Testing (in alphabetical order)

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PST - Lithium Heparin Plasma Separated Tube

PREFERRED SPECIMEN COLLECTION METHOD IS IN **BOLD**.

Test Name:	**Vancomycin Random**
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Tube must be labeled as “Random”.

Test Name:	**Vancomycin Trough**
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 4 hours; Refrigerated 4 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	Label tube as “TROUGH.” Refer to Therapeutic Drug Monitoring info on pg. 12 for recommended draw times.

Test Name:	**Vitamin B-12**
Preferred Specimen:	**PST**
Stability:	Non-centrifuged 2 hours C&S: Room Temperature 8 hours; Refrigerated 24 hours
Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated
Special Instructions:	**Fasting specimen preferred**

Remember …

our laboratory courier is available to serve you.

NorthOaks
Department of Laboratories

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