Saratoga Hospital Laboratory

211 Church Street,, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**STAT TESTING PROTOCOL**

**Purpose:** This policy provides instructions on managing turnaround time (TAT) for stat laboratory tests.

**Policy:** Stat testing represents a clinical need for expedited results. For tests performed on site, testing is completed as quickly as possible with a goal of result availability within one hour of receipt of the specimen in the laboratory.

See attachment I for a list of available stat tests. Stat availability for satellite laboratories is limited to tests performed at those sites. This list is not intended to be an exclusive list of stat tests. Other tests on the laboratory’s menu may be run on a stat basis but may require a (TAT) longer than one hour.

Emergency Department (ED): The ED medical staff has designated specific laboratory tests as high priority for maintaining quality patient care with minimum wait times for ED patients. TATs for these tests have been adjusted to accommodate the ED workflow (see attachment II). Phlebotomists have been assigned to the ED to ensure timely collection of specimens.

**Scope:** Saratoga Hospital Laboratory and its satellite laboratories.

**Procedure:**

Notes:

* Orders must be entered into the Meditech system with the priority "S".
* Specimens for STAT requests are collected within 15 minutes of receiving the request.
* Each department maintains a rack or bin specifically designated for stat specimens.
* **If testing cannot be completed within the expected TAT, the requesting patient care unit or provider office must be notified (e.g. instrument problems, abnormal fluids and other testing delays). Document notification in the comment section of the Meditech requisition (canned comment: LSRD).**

All specimens received with the priority of stat will be processed in the following manner.

1. The specimen is received in the Meditech computer system. The receipt time is the actual time the specimen was delivered to the laboratory-not the time received in Meditech.
2. A red STAT sticker is placed on the tube.
3. The specimen is immediately delivered to the appropriate testing area of the laboratory. It is the responsibility of the person delivering these specimens, to notify the technical staff that a stat specimen has been delivered.
4. Specimen processing and testing will commence immediately upon delivery.
5. After completion of testing, results are immediately available in the Meditech PCI module or are broadcast/faxed to the appropriate location.

Date of Origin: 8/15/89

Revised: 8/20/90, 11/20/96, 2/7/07; 8/14/09; 9/1/11 Revised by: Madeline LaPierre

**Date Placed in Service: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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Quality/Compliance Supervisor Date Laboratory Director Date

**Attachment I**

**STAT PROCEDURE LIST FOR SARATOGA HOSPITAL**

Turnaround time is one hour from receipt of the specimen in the laboratory.

\* Includes tests performed by satellite laboratories.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BACTERIOLOGY** | | **BLOOD BANK** |
|  | |  |
| Collection of blood for culture. | | Compatibility testing |
| Meningitis Antigens | | Direct Coombs |
| Gram Stain (CSF, Positive Blood Cultures) | | Distribution of blood products |
| Influenza A&B (Rapid Antigens)\* | | Type and Rh |
| Rapid Strep A | | Type and Screen |
| RSV | | Work-up of Transfusion Reaction |
| Wet prep for Trichomonas. | |  |
| **CHEMISTRY** | | |
| Acetaminophen | Fetal Fibronectin | |
| Acetone | Gentamicin | |
| Amylase\* | Glucose\* | |
| Basic (Glu, BUN, Creat., Electrolytes)\* | HCG - quantitative | |
| Bilirubin\* | Lactic Acid | |
| BUN\* | Lithium | |
| B-NP | Magnesium\* | |
| Calcium\* | Myoglobin | |
| Carbamazepine | Osmolality | |
| CK\* | pH (Urine, Fluids, etc.) | |
| CKMB | Phosphorus | |
| Creatinine\* | Phenobarbital | |
| Digoxin | Protein (CSF) | |
| Dilantin | Salicylate | |
| Drug Screen (Urine) | Serum Pregnancy-Quantitative | |
| Electrolytes\* | Theophylline | |
| Ethanol | Tobramycin | |
|  | Troponin | |
| **HEMATOLOGY** | | |
| CBC (w/out differential)\* | Prothrombin Time | |
| CSF/Fluid cell count | Partial Thromboplastin Time | |
| D-Dimers\* | Serum Pregnancy-Qualitative | |
| FDP | Stool for Occult Blood | |
| Mono | Urinalysis\* | |
| Hemoglobin and Hematocrit\* | Urine Pregnancy\* | |
| Platelet count\* |  | |

**Appendix #2**

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**TATs FOR STAT LABORATORY TESTS**

NOTE: Tests not listed will follow the general laboratory policy for stat testing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EXPECTED TAT** | **TEST** |
| Results available within **45** minutes from **order** | Basic Profile  CBC (excluding differential)  Protimes  Urinalysis (excluding microscopic) |
| Results available within **60** minutes from **order** | Rapid Strep  Troponin (Biosite)  Urine Pregnancy |
| Results available within **75** minutes from **order** | Comprehensive Profile  Troponin  CKMB  Alcohol |
| Results available within **90** minutes from **order** | B-NP |