

## Laboratory Testing Priorities

The Authorized requestor assigning priorities to requested laboratory tests allows the laboratory to properly triage the testing and allocate appropriate utilization of laboratory staff that result in optimal patient care.

Ensure test requests are assigned the appropriate priority to meet the patient's needs.

For additional requisition information see [Completing the Laboratory Requisitions](#) and [Obtaining Laboratory Requisitions](#) webpages.

Priority	Definition	Additional Information
<b>STAT</b>	The shortest turnaround time ( <b>STAT</b> ) priority is requested when laboratory test results are <u>vital to immediate patient management in life threatening emergencies</u> ; processed first ahead of Urgent and Routine testing. Generally results are available within one (1) hour of specimen collection. More information can be found at <a href="#">Laboratory's TAT webpage</a> .	Available for hospital inpatients and emergency room patients. <u>In the majority of cases</u> STAT priority is not available for outpatients.
<b>Urgent</b>	The <b>Urgent</b> priority is requested when results are required sooner than the Routine priority for the efficient provision of patient management; processed after STAT and before Routine testing. Generally results are available within three (3) hours of specimen collection. More information can be found at <a href="#">Laboratory's TAT webpage</a> .	Results needed quickly for non-life threatening situations or when discharge from hospital is dependent upon a laboratory test result.
<b>Routine</b>	The <b>Routine</b> priority is requested when the priority does not meet the STAT or Urgent definitions; processed after STAT and Urgent testing. There is variation in turnaround times for this priority. More information can be found at <a href="#">Laboratory's TAT webpage</a> .	Results needed for non-stat and non-urgent patient management.