

**ST. JOSEPH CLINICAL LABORATORY**

**360 Broadway**

**Bangor, Me 04401**

**TURN AROUND TIME**

**PURPOSE:** Turnaround time (TAT) for laboratory results should be established and reviewed to ensure adequate reporting times for patient test results. TAT is based on the time difference between when specimens are received in the Lab, to when the results are resulted

1. **DEFINITIONS:**
   1. **TAT:** Turn Around Time

**ALI:** Affiliated Laboratories, Inc.

1. **STAT TESTING:**
   1. All stat tests should be completed within 1 hour from the time that it is received in the laboratory, until it is resulted.
2. **TIMED TESTING:**
   1. All timed tests, which are usually inpatient specimens, should be completed within 1 hour from the time that it is received in the laboratory, until it is resulted.
3. **ROUTINE TESTING:**
   1. Turnaround time for all routine lab tests performed on site is same day testing, except for Serology testing, which is batched.
      1. See Blood Bank Procedure for BB TAT’s.

1. **REFERRAL TESTS:**
   1. Turn-around times for referral lab tests are dependent on the test and referral lab.
2. **DELAYS:**
   1. In the instance that any testing is delayed, for instance the instrument is down, the requestor(s) will be notified of the issue and will be given a time frame for when testing will resume. Any STAT testing that can’t be held until testing can resume can be sent to ALI as needed.
   2. This does not imply that all instances of delayed reporting for all tests require formal notification. It is at the discretion of the MT/MLT involved to make the determination if the delay is significant enough to warrant the notification.