



**The Pathology Laboratory (APMC)**  
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### **Specimen Stability and Integrity**

Specimen integrity is necessary to obtain accurate testing results. We have recognized that several of our clients are holding culture specimens after hours of operation. These specimens often exceed their stability time for testing. Patient reports are indicated with a statement that test results may be affected. To remedy this situation, we would like to share how specimens should be handled after hours, weekends, and holidays.

We have partnered with Lake Area Medical Hospital (LAMC) and West Cal Cam (WCCH) to perform testing. For LAMC, the specimen should be brought to the hospital laboratory along with the written order and billing information. The hospital will bill the patient's insurance. The requisition should be filled out completely so that results are delivered to the ordering provider. The lab is located on the first floor near the emergency entrance. For WCCH, the specimen can be brought to either the draw station or the hospital lab. Follow the same instructions above regarding proper completion of requisition and providing billing information.

Each client should have a copy of The Path Lab's directory of service. It can be found on our website at [www.thepathlab.com](http://www.thepathlab.com) under Client Services, Clinical Pathology Collection/Rejection Guidelines, and then Directory of Services.

**Tests that clients should recognize as having a short stability are listed below. These test exceed testing stability within 24 to 48 hours. Please review the Directory of Services for exact times.**

Cultures (see Directory of Services for each type of culture)  
Several Chemistry tests (see Directory of Services)  
CBC  
Sed rate  
Therapeutic drugs  
Flu  
OCP and Stool Culture  
Protine and PTT

**Please remember specimen centrifugation is very important to obtain accurate results for many assays. Recommended centrifuge time and speed are 10 minutes at 3100 to 3500 RPM.**

If you have any questions, contact Nicho Bourque at [nbourque@thepathlab.com](mailto:nbourque@thepathlab.com) or 337-312-1280.

*"Providing High Quality Pathology Services, With Superior Customer Satisfaction"*