



The Pathology Laboratory (APMC)
830 Bayou Pines Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
(337) 436-9557 Fax (337) 312-1311
www.thepathlab.com

Lehrue Stevens, Jr., M.D., Emeritus
Gault Townsend, M.D., Emeritus
Regina Burton, M.D.

Paula Eapen, M.D.
Brandi Kelly, M.D.
Thad Primeaux, M.D.

Stephanie Richard, M.D.
Robert Rumsey, M.D.
John VanHoose, M.D.

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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. Path Lab hours of operation are M-F 6:30 to 5:30, Saturday 8-11 and closed on holidays.

We have partnered with CHRISTUS- Lake Area Hospital and West Cal Cam (WCCH) to perform testing. For CHRISTUS, 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 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)

Body fluids (Cell Counts)

Several Chemistry tests (see Directory of Services)

CBC

Sed rate

Therapeutic drugs

Flu

OCP and Stool Culture

Protime 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 or 337-312-1280.

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