



Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

To: Kent Hospital Medical Staff and Kent Hospital Nursing Staff

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Re: Updates on laboratory STAT tests

We are pleased to inform you of a new hospital policy on laboratory STAT tests that will become effective on June 4, 2024 (attached). This policy defines STAT eligible tests and provides guidelines for ordering STAT tests. STAT orders take priority over all routine tests.

As you know, STAT tests are used to assist providers to make immediate treatment decisions in medical emergencies or life-threatening conditions. However, STAT orders may be used for “convenience”. Because overuse of STAT orders is disruptive to the laboratory process and can delay not only “routine” tests but also “true STAT” tests, it is important to reduce inappropriate/unnecessary STAT test orders.

In this policy is a list of tests that are eligible for STAT orders. A test must be ordered as STAT priority for it to be processed as STAT test. STAT orders for tests that are not listed will be processed as “routine” unless prior approval is obtained from the laboratory.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lauren Beverly at x35341 or Georgette Gatos at x35270. Thank you very much for your attention.