

Hunterdon Medical Center Laboratory

Policies and Overview

Hunterdon Medical Center Laboratory provides services seven days per week, 24 hours per day. Our mission to our patients and our healthcare professionals is to provide timely and comprehensive laboratory services.

The laboratory strives to ensure quality laboratory services throughout the path of the laboratory workflow. We develop and maintain systems that will enhance our ability to provide vital information to healthcare providers while ensuring the safety and confidentiality of our patients.

The laboratory is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and is licensed by CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendment) and the State of New Jersey. We participate in proficiency testing conducted by the CAP and reported to the CAP and the State of New Jersey. The quality plan encompasses the National Patient Safety Goals (NSPG) for patient identification and critical results documentation as well as internal performance improvement measures in each laboratory section.

Courier Schedules:

HHS couriers are available for Hunterdon Medical Center Clients. Pick-ups are scheduled based on location of office and volume of specimens. Contact the Outreach Office: **908-237-5509** for further information.

Delivery of Results:

Reports are sent electronically as soon as the results are verified. Paper copies of reports are generated and printed (HHS Network) or faxed to the provider's location after proper verification of the FAX number has occurred.

HIPAA Compliance:

The laboratory complies with all Hunterdon Healthcare guidelines and HIPAA regulations regarding the release of Protected Health Information (PHI). We are authorized to release information to ordering physicians or to healthcare providers responsible for the patient's care. To that end:

- Results are released by FAX only after documentation from the provider and electronic verification of the FAX number.
- Results are not released by phone or to third parties not directly associated with the patient.

Reflex Testing:

Reflex testing is triggered by algorithms built into specific tests. The reflex test is ordered automatically when the defined criteria are met. Information relating to reflex testing is available with the individual procedure in the test catalog. The reflex test is charged when ordered. Reflex tests are implemented based on good laboratory practice accompanied by input from the Medical Director of the Laboratory and the medical staff.