

How to Use the Catalog of Laboratory Services

The Department of Pathology's *Catalog of Laboratory Services* is arranged alphabetically and is cross-referenced with synonyms referring the user to the test name and laboratory area where the testing is performed. This guide is intended as a rapid reference to the VCUHS Department of Pathology laboratory services and not a total compendium of laboratory medicine.

The introductory section provides information about laboratory departments, their services, policies, and procedures. The individual test description template includes the following information which is updated daily from the laboratory's information system.

Test Name	Nomenclature used to describe test analyte and/ or test method
Synonyms	Alternative names used to describe test
Order Includes	Test parameters included in the test order
Specimen	Type of sample or specimen needed to perform test
Patient Preparation	Specific information related to the steps necessary to prepare the patient and collection materials prior to the specimen collection and pertinent information about the care of the patient after obtaining the specimen or after the procedure
Container	Appropriate collection and transportation containers
Minimum Volume	Absolute minimum volume of specimen needed for testing to be performed
Special Handling	Specific requirements for scheduling and any special handling of the patient or sample related to test order
Storage Transportation MCVH Campus	Specific information significant to storage temperature and handling of the specimen during transportation
Storage Transportation Remote Locations	Specific information significant to storage temperature and handling of the specimen during transportation
Reference Interval	Indicates the laboratory's standard reference ranges for normal results
Other Interpretative Information	Other relevant information which may assist in the interpretation or utilization of the test result
Critical Values	Test results are flagged with " C " to alert healthcare professionals when the associated test result may be a life-threatening value and requires immediate action
Methodology	Refers to the method used in the laboratory to perform the test
Performing Lab	Refers to the laboratory section that performs the test
CPT Code	Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Coding as defined by the American Medical Association in the Pathology and Laboratory Guidelines
Internal Code	Code used internally by the lab to order the test.