

Who performs my test(s)?

A clinical laboratory performs diagnostic testing on blood and non-blood specimens such as urine, sputum, body fluids and feces. Lakeland Laboratory performs the testing most commonly ordered by our community physicians. Tests not performed on site are sent to laboratories with whom Lakeland has formed a partnership: South Bend Medical Foundation, Mayo Medical Laboratory and ARUP Laboratories to name a few.

Lakeland Laboratory employs certified clinical laboratory scientists (four to five year Bachelor of Science degrees) and clinical laboratory technicians (associate degrees) who perform clinical testing.

Who can collect my blood specimen?

A phlebotomist is an individual trained to draw blood. Lakeland Laboratory's phlebotomists have high school diplomas with additional training specifically in phlebotomy techniques for all ages.

In addition to focused training and competency standards, our phlebotomy staff is cross-trained to handle other duties. This may include placing physician orders into our laboratory information system and verifying diagnosis information from your physician as required for medical necessity compliance.

What will happen to me today?

After you have been registered, you will be escorted into a phlebotomy room. You may be asked questions by the phlebotomist that have already been asked by other

associates during the registration process. This is done to confirm patient identification and to ensure other processes have taken place. The phlebotomist will collect the necessary amount of blood for each test ordered and label the specimens in your presence.

Can the lab tell me my test(s) results?

It is your right as a patient to receive your test results. Don't hesitate to ask your physician for your results and a thorough explanation of what they mean.

Please contact Health Information Management (Medical Records) to obtain a copy of your test results. They may be contacted during normal business hours, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at (269) 983-8330.

The laboratory cannot interpret your results. Since the lab only knows one "piece" of your medical history, it cannot accurately tell you what your test results mean.

When does my physician receive my test results?

Lab reports are sent to your physician in a variety of ways depending on the location of the physician office. Reports may be delivered to a printer in the physician office, delivered electronically to the physician's computer system, hand delivered by laboratory courier, or sent through the U.S. mail.

A physician may also flag your test with one of our priority codes. The laboratory will then telephone or fax the result(s) directly to your physician's office.

How does my physician determine which blood test(s) to order?

Thousands of different test results can confirm a diagnosis, track the course of a disease, determine the success of ongoing medical treatment, or screen for potential health problems. Often your physician will order a collection of tests to provide a "picture" of your overall health.

Common Tests	Purpose
CBC	To determine general health status and to screen for a variety of disorders, such as anemia and infection
Glucose	To determine if your blood glucose level is within healthy ranges; to screen for, diagnose, and monitor hyperglycemia (high blood glucose) and hypoglycemia (low blood glucose)
Cholesterol	To screen for risk of developing heart disease
Iron	To determine whether your blood iron level is normal. Iron tests can be very useful in determining the cause of anemia
AST/GGT	Indication of liver function
Urea Nitrogen/ Creatinine	Indication of kidney function