

MGH Add On Laboratory Testing Guidelines *(updated 4/16/2016)*

Testing will be added to an existing sample only if there is sample available AND if the testing will not be compromised due to extended storage time.

For MGH, there are two Add On tests available in Epic:

1) Core Laboratory (Epic code LAB40079, **Lab Add On**)

2) Microbiology (Epic code LAB40076, **Micro Add On**)

The workflow for each of these is outlined below. For blood bank add ons, providers should call the blood bank (6-3623).

Core Laboratory (use Epic code LAB40079, Lab Add On)

Use for hematology, chemistry, immunology, coagulation, and sendout testing

The screenshot shows the Epic 'Lab Add On' window. The title bar reads 'Lab Add On: Routine, Add On, Resulting Agency - MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL'. Below the title bar, there are buttons for 'Accept', 'Cancel', and 'Remove'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Reference Links' with a link to '1. Test Details-Lab Handbook'; 'Questions' with two prompts: '1. Phone/Pager:' and '2. Tests to be Added', each with a red warning icon and an empty text box; 'Process Inst:' with a yellow background containing the text: 'Specimens are held for a limited time and only certain tests may be added on. This screen should be ONLY USED to add a test to a Core laboratory (chemistry, hematology, coagulation, immunology, diabetes) specimen that has ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED by the Lab.'; and 'Comments (F6):' with a text input field and a toolbar containing icons for undo, redo, insert smart text, and other editing functions. At the bottom of the window, there are again buttons for 'Accept', 'Cancel', and 'Remove'.

Chemistry

Storage:

- Blood and urine specimens are kept for 3 days.
- CSF specimens are kept frozen for several months.

The following chemistry tests should NOT be added on to a specimen due to the potential for falsely elevated or decreased values: Total CO₂ (bicarbonate), Potassium, Glucose, bilirubin, and tests that require specimen to be frozen immediately

Hematology

Storage:

- Hematology specimens are kept for 1-3 days (see below). However, due to the sensitive nature of hematology/coagulation testing many tests cannot be added on due to degradation of the sample during storage (see table for details).

| Test | Tube Type | Volume Needed | Can Be Added |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| CBC (includes WBC, RBC, PLT, HCT and RBC indices) | Purple top | 1 mL | 24 hrs from Collection time at Room Temp (R.T) |
| Reticulocyte Count | Purple top | 1 ml | 24 hrs at R.T, 72 hrs if Refrigerated |
| Differential Count | Purple top | 1 ml | 24 hrs from Collection |
| Erythrocyte sedimentation rate | Purple top | Must be completely filled | 12 hrs from Collection Time |
| CSF (includes Cell count and Diff) | CSF tube | 0.5 mL | 1 hr from Collection is optimal (Cells degradation begins after 1hr) |
| Cell Count/Diff Other body fluids | CSF/fluid tube | 0.5 ml | 4 hrs from Collection Time |
| Urinalysis (includes UA dipstick and Microscopic), urine eosinophils | Sealed tube or container | 10 mL | 24* hrs from Collection Time, or 48 hrs using UA Stasis Preservative Tube |
| PT/ Fibrinogen/D-dimer | Blue | Fill to etched line | 24 hrs from Collection Time |
| PTT | Blue | Fill to etched line | 8 hrs from Collection Time** |

* After 8 hours a comment will be attached to the UA results – “Time between specimen collection and accessioning has exceeded 8 hours. If the specimen was not refrigerated some test parameters may have been adversely affected.”

**Will test up to 24 hours. The following comment will be attached to PTT after 8 hours. “For this specimen the interval between collection and resulting exceeded 8 hours. This result is likely falsely decreased for heparin containing specimens and may be falsely increased for non-heparin containing specimens.”

Microbiology (use Epic code LAB40076, Micro Add On)

Use for microbiology and infectious disease serology testing

Microbiology Add On: Routine, Add On

Reference Links: 1. Test Details-Lab Handbook

Questions:

| Prompt | Answer |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Phone/Pager: | |
| 2. Tests to be Added | |

Single response

Comments (F6):

Storage:

- Urine specimens are kept for 24 hours.
- Routine culture specimens (wound, fluid, respiratory, stool and/or swabs) are kept for 48 hours.
- Serology and molecular bloods and CSF specimens with a save requested are kept for 6 months.

Depending on the original tests requested and how the specimen was processed, there may not be specimen available for additional testing. Ordering providers will be contacted if an add-on request cannot be done.

When submitting an add-on request please include the specific specimen the test should be added to if more than one specimen has been received (i.e. right lung specimen from 4-13-16).

For **Antibiotic Susceptibility add-ons** include the specific specimen (reference Lab ID#), the organism ID and the antibiotic to be released or added in the request.