

# Lab Collection Requirements

Providing accurate lab values is critical for the care and treatment of our patients. Documenting the collect date, and TIME, ensures that we are able to assess sample integrity. In particular, unspun **Serum SST or Serum Red-Top** samples older than 4 hours create the risk of providing erroneous lab results that can be so critical in value that the patient is asked to seek emergency medical care they do not need. This is documented in the literature and has happened several times here in the last 12 months.

To mitigate that risk, we will require the collection DATE and TIME to be documented for all samples received in our laboratory. This includes both electronic and paper orders. Failure to include this information will initiate a phone call to obtain the missing information and will delay test results.

**In conjunction with that change, any samples received unspun older than 4 hours from collection will be rejected and a redraw will be requested.**

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