

# Timing Matters! Deliver Specimens to Laboratory as Soon as Possible

## I

### Introduction

*(Why is this important?)*

Clarifying and reeducating the expectation that specimens are to be sent to the laboratory ASAP from clinics and patient care areas.

## S

### Situation

*(What is the current situation?)*

Specimens should ideally be delivered to the lab as soon as possible. Delays in transportation can **compromise specimen integrity**. Lately, specimens have been arriving more than 24 hours later.

## B

### Background

*(What is important to know about the background?)*

Certain tests are time-sensitive because analytes **degrade** or change after collection. If specimens are not received promptly, results may become **unreliable**, leading to **canceled** tests or the need for **redraws**, which impacts patient care and workflow efficiency.

## A

### Assessment

*(What is the evaluation?)  
(Could include costs, risks, etc.)*

Currently, specimens arriving beyond stability time limits pose a risk for **inaccurate results**. This can lead to diagnostic **delays** and additional **burden** on staff and patients.

## R

### Recommendation

*(What actions need to take place?)*

- Send specimens to the lab as soon as possible.
- Seek guidance from the lab, if needed.
- Utilize this [site](#) for additional information regarding specific tests with time and temperature sensitivities.

