

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How do I get tests done?**

All testing requires an order from a health-care professional. You may bring it with you or your provider may send it prior to your visit. You must stop at the Admissions Desk prior to coming to the laboratory. Exception: See **Wellness Laboratory Testing** as this test menu does not require a written order from a provider, or check in at Admissions.
- **Do I need an appointment?**

Most tests do not require an appointment. However, your provider may call to schedule some timed tests such as glucose tolerance tests. Some tests or 24-hour urine collections may require specific instructions from your provider or the laboratory staff. The laboratory is open for out-patient test draws Monday – Friday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and for very limited testing on Saturday 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Why must I stop at the Admissions Desk?**

The Admissions / Registration personnel will gather necessary information including insurance information and other identifying data so that your test results will be matched in the hospital's electronic medical record system. They will also check for medical necessity on tests as required for filing any claims for insurance. You may be asked to re-answer some of these same questions when you come to the laboratory. This is for your safety to ensure that all information is correct.
- **If I am told to be fasting, what does this mean?**

Fasting generally means no liquid or solid food for 12 hours and no alcohol for 24 hours prior to specimen collection. If you are unsure whether the test your provider has ordered requires fasting, it is probably a good idea to do so. If you are on medication, continue to take it with water as directed by your health care provider.
- **Where are my results sent? Can I get a copy?**

Laboratory results will be sent to the provider who ordered the tests. By law, laboratory personnel can only give your results to your health care provider, unless there is a written order from your provider allowing release directly to you. You can obtain a copy from your health care provider or from the Medical Records Department at Floyd County Medical Center. You will be asked to sign a release form. Exception: See **Wellness Laboratory Testing** as these test results are sent directly to you.
- **Who will explain my results?**

Your health care provider should explain your results since they know why they ordered the tests, and how the test results are related to your total health picture.
- **How long will it take for my provider to get the results?**

It depends on the testing ordered. Most routine tests are performed the same day the specimen is collected and your provider should have the results by the following day. Some tests take longer or are not run every day or on weekends. Some tests are sent to an outside reference laboratory. Culture specimens may take as long as 3-5 days for testing to be completed.
- **Where can I get more information about my test results?**

The website www.labtestsonline.org is also a good source for information about many laboratory tests.