

PREVENTION AND DIAGNOSIS START WITH A LAB TEST



America's clinical laboratories serve as the foundation for early diagnosis, prevention and personalized care for millions of patients. Clinical laboratories play a vital role in improving patient outcomes and quality of life while delivering better value for the health system on the whole. An illustrative example of how these critical services are accessed is provided below.

A provider may order or recommend a specific test(s) during a clinical visit with a patient.

The order is transmitted electronically or by paper to a clinical lab. The specimen is transferred² to the same clinical lab for testing.

The clinical lab shares results with the ordering provider and answers any questions on findings.

Once a test(s) is ordered, a specimen may be collected at a physician's office or a laboratory patient service center (PSC).¹

Once the specimen arrives, the clinical lab performs the ordered tests to analyze the specimen. In cases where a more complex or less utilized test is required, the specimen may be sent to a reference lab.

The provider determines appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan informed by the final test results.

¹ In the overwhelming majority of cases, specimen collection occurs at a physician's office.

² Transportation of the specimen to the clinical lab varies. Some specimens will be transported by airplane, other specimens are transported by vehicle.