

All hemocult, gastrocult and gastric pH testing at the bedside in inpatient care units has been moved to the laboratory as part of a Joint Commission standard. This excludes testing performed in Emergency Departments on both campuses.

Physicians need to enter the hemocult, gastrocult and gastric pH testing order in FCIS. Nursing staff must now send the specimens to the laboratory. Laboratory staff will test the sample and place the results in FCIS. The timeline for results will be the same as other non stat labs.

See an [example](#) of how to enter the testing in FCIS. For questions or more information, contact Kaia Sjogren, 612-273-2360, or Jennifer Peters, 612-273-5415.

Beginning this month, some [chemistry laboratory tests](#) will be reported with a different lower limit of measuring range based on requirements defined in the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute guideline EP17-A (NCCLS, Protocols for Determination of Limits of Detection and Limits of Quantitation). The new limits will be reflected for all Fairview Laboratories. Reference ranges will not change.

Our laboratories designated respiratory season will end June 1 for rapid respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) testing and mid-June for rapid influenza testing. The season was prolonged this year due to the H1N1 influenza outbreak. After the season ends, the laboratory recommends a viral respiratory culture because rapid antigen testing can produce false positive results.

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