



CCLS Connection

"Your partner in health care ... together we make a difference"

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Direct Access Laboratory Testing



A health care trend that has greatly impacted the Clinical Laboratory in recent years is the demand from consumers to be more involved in managing their health care with the ability to order their own laboratory tests without physician

orders. Patients have expressed interest in being involved in medical decision making and desire access to their health information. This has resulted in many consumer-based Direct Access Testing (DAT) programs being implemented throughout the United States. DAT is characterized by the individual paying up-front and out-of-pocket for laboratory tests. Tests are usually purchased without physician consultation and the consumer is responsible for any follow-up with their provider.

CentraCare Laboratory Services has provided this service since 2006, with periodic updates and

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Mission Statement

As part of **CentraCARE Health System**, We are a team of dedicated health care professionals whose mission is to provide quality service, expert consultation and comprehensive medical laboratory information to Central Minnesota.

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additions to the test menu. This service has grown in popularity through increasing public awareness and partnerships with health care providers including physicians and alternative medicine practitioners.

Within the past year, St. Cloud Hospital's Employee Health Services department also has contributed to the program's growth through requested immune status testing, such as Varicella, Rubella, etc. for employees unable to produce immunization records.

The benefits of DAT include consumer health empowerment, convenience, privacy and rapid turnaround time. It provides a cost-effective alternative for the consumer and allows the laboratory to market directly to the consumer, potentially bringing more patients into the health care system.

If you are interested in more information about this program and how it could benefit your patients or you and your family, please view the CentraCare Laboratory Services website. Brochures are also available electronically or in hard copy, per request.

Explore the CCLS Website

We invite you to explore the CentraCare Laboratory Services (CCLS) Web site by visiting CentraCare.com, clicking on Specialty Centers and selecting CentraCare Laboratory Services. There you will find not only archived copies of these newsletters, but also our test catalogue, accreditations certificates and links to a number of informational documents. The following is a brief description of those resources you can access.



Under the **Laboratory Services** heading, you can learn more about CCLS and our available testing sites and services in the [About Us](#) and [Laboratory Sites](#) links.

Direct Access Testing: Provides information about our consumer-based DAT program (refer to previous article) including requirements, test menu and directions to performing sites.

Patient Instructions: Contains instructions for patients collecting specimens at home or preparing for specialized laboratory testing. Includes dietary restrictions, collection container acceptability, timing and other guidance for multiple sample types.

Laboratory Careers: Details the varied positions and career options available in the clinical laboratory profession.

A number of documents can be found under the **Client Resources** heading that you may find beneficial.

Accreditation: Displays information about our laboratory's CLIA licenses and College of American Pathologists (CAP) accreditation with printable versions of each certificate.

Communications: Initially circulated via our CCLS e-mail distribution list, this link contains archived laboratory test update notifications for your reference.

Forms and Guides: Both provide access to essential documents to aid in quality sample collection and documentation. You will find order forms, new test requests, and multiple reference guides for sample types and collection and shipping instructions. New documents are being added or updated on a regular basis and by request.

Point of Care Procedures: Designed to give procedural guidance for those that utilize point of care instrumentation under the direction of CCLS.

Specimen Identification: CCLS mandates proper specimen identification throughout all phases of laboratory processes for the safety of our patients. This link is a crucial reference for properly identifying specimens submitted for testing.

Test Catalog: Offers a Web-based resource to testing provided by CCLS and its primary reference laboratory, Mayo Medical Laboratories. Read on for more information about the Test Catalog.

From the home page of the Test Catalog you instantly open a searchable test database, with a variety of radio buttons to expand or limit your search. The Help tab gives detailed instructions and tips on using this tool.

Test Information

Search the Following

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordering Mnemonic
<input type="checkbox"/> Reporting Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Performing Lab
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Everywhere
<input type="checkbox"/> Aliases	

Search for

Begins With
 Contains

On the left side of the page, you will find a navigation bar with a General Information link. Here you can access additional basic information related to the laboratory such as policies, critical values lists and stat turn-around-times.

If accessing the Test Catalog link for the first time, you will be prompted to accept the Terms and Conditions document. Subsequent access will bring you directly to the test catalog site.

The CentraCare Laboratory Services Web site can be a valuable resource for your information. It constantly is evaluated for content and enhancements, and contains the most current forms of documents you already may use. We encourage you to visit often, offer suggestions and place a shortcut on your computer's desktop screen! It's your resource. We want to make it the most useful for you.

CCLS Laboratory Leadership Team Update

CentraCare Laboratory Services would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the newest addition to our leadership team. Our team of Specialists are responsible for providing technical expertise within their respective departments. Please feel free to contact them for any questions or concerns you may have.

Rachelle Hoeft

Transfusion Services Technical Specialist



Medical Laboratory
Scientist (ASCP)
B.S. Medical Technology
University of Minnesota

E-mail:

hoeftr@centracare.com

Phone: (320) 251-2700
ext. 57308

Specialist Team Contact Information

Jerry Crissman, Microbiology

crissmanj@centracare.com

Extension 57361

Matthew Paul, Hematology

paulm@centracare.com

Extension 57362

Pamela Rakke, Anatomic Pathology

rakkep@centracare.com

Extension 57295

Jerome Schlabsz, Chemistry

schlabszj@centracare.com

Extension 57325

Melissa Schmidt, Point of Care

schmidtm@centracare.com

Extension 57295

Susan Stay, Support Services

stays@centracare.com

Extension 57363

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Editor: Jeremy Angell



Contributors:

Jeremy Angell

Rebecca Hlebain-Aaker

Cindy Johnson

CentraCare Laboratory Services - River Campus

1406 Sixth Ave. North
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320) 255-5999

**CentraCare Laboratory Services - River Campus
Clinic Collection Site**

1200 Sixth Ave. North
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320) 240-2211

CentraCare Laboratory Services - Health Plaza

1900 CentraCare Circle
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320) 229-4903

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cclabser@centracare.com

Histology Remodel

Submitted by: Rebecca Hlebain-Aaker, CT(ASCP)

The recent St. Cloud Hospital expansion and continued growth of the surgical operating room capacity has prompted the need for the Histology departments of CCLS to undergo changes as well.

The increase in the number and location of the newest surgical suites will result in the relocation of a newly redesigned histology satellite laboratory adjacent to surgery. This site is where frozen tissue samples are processed by the Histology team and examined by a Pathologist for preliminary diagnosis. The proximity of this space with the surgical department allows for immediate pathology consultation with the surgical teams.

As part of the remodel project, the core testing area of the histology laboratory will be redesigned to improve work space and add enhanced technology. Two replacement, state-of-the-art, immunohistochemical stainers will arrive in early September. Validation and implementation of the new system is highly anticipated. In addition, a new tissue processor will be installed that will have the capability to improve tissue processing flexibility and increase work flow efficiency.