

Memo

To: AML Reference Laboratory Clients
From: Allina Medical Laboratories, Reference Laboratory Services
Date: March 16, 2009
Re: Specimen Retention Change

This is a reminder that effective March 23rd, 2009, Allina Medical Laboratories will be decreasing the retention time for routine serum specimens from 7 to 6 days. Specimens will be discarded on the morning of the 7th day (7AM).

Most Chemistry specimens are retained for 6 days from the date of collection; however, *AML will not perform or repeat a test on a specimen that has exceeded its useful life.*

- Bilirubin, Direct is stable for 3 days.
- Bilirubin, Total is stable for 5 days.
- Carbamazepine is stable for 5 days.
- Carbon Dioxide is stable for 4 days.
- Ethanol is stable for 5 days.
- Lithium is stable for 5 days.
- Measured LDL Cholesterol is stable for 5 days.
- Progesterone is stable for 5 days.
- PSA is stable for 5 days.
- Vancomycin (random, trough, or peak) is stable for 2 days.

Hematology specimens are retained for 24 hours.

Coagulation specimens are retained for 24 hours, if unopened and unspun.

Other sample retention times vary.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact your AML Account Representative.