

Memo

To: AML Reference Laboratory Clients
From: Allina Medical Laboratories, Reference Laboratory Services
Date: March 9, 2009
Re: Specimen Retention Change

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.