

EMHRL Reflex Testing Policy

A “reflexed” test is a secondary test performed after an initial test result is outside of established parameters. These secondary tests further enhance the clinical picture or confirm the initial results, facilitating patient care.

“Automatic” reflex tests in common practice are performed without additional orders from the physician (Table 1). Other reflex tests may be clinically relevant, but cannot be automatically performed by the laboratory unless requested on the test order prior to testing (Table 2). If a reflex test is not listed below, it may be possible to customize a reflex test upon the client’s request.

Table 1. Common Practice Automatic Reflex Testing

Primary Test and Order Code	Includes	Reflex Test	Reflex Criteria
ANA Screen (ANAS)	Antinuclear antibody screen by EIA	ANA titer /pattern	Positive/equivocal ANA screen
CBC/DIFF (CBCD)	Cell counts, indices, automated diff	Manual WBC differential and RBC morphology	Abnormal flagging criteria
Routine Culture (ROUC)	Inoculation & interpretation of growth	ID of pathogenic bacteria, sensitivity	Presence/type of pathogens
Viral EIA	EIA	PCR	EIA is negative
Hepatitis A screen (HAV)	Anti- HAV total	Anti-HAV IGM	Reactive anti-HAV total
Hepatitis B surface antigen (SAG)	SAG screen	Confirmatory SAG	Screen is reactive
HIV 1 & 2 antibodies (HIVAE)	EIA testing for antibodies	Confirmatory HIV Evaluation	Positive EIA test
Lupus Anticoagulant (LUPU2)	Protime, PTT, DRVVT	Confirmatory Hexagonal Phospholipid test	Inconclusive DRVVT
Mixing studies (CIRAN)	Circulating anticoagulants	Additional factor assays	Pathologist review
Rapid Strep Screen (STSCR)	Rapid Strep Screen	Beta Strep culture	Negative Screen
RPR Syphilis Serology (RPR)	RPR (Charcoal Flocculation)	FTA-IgM, confirmatory IFA	Reactive RPR

Table 2. Indicates Reflex Testing when Ordering

Primary Test and Order Code	Includes	Reflex Test	Reflex Criteria
ANA Reflex (ANASR)	Antinuclear antibodies, titer and pattern	anti ENA, anti-DNA, anti-SSA, anti-SSB	Positive ANA screen
PAP / HPV Reflex (Thinprep)	Monolayer slide prep, exam & interp.	Human Papilloma virus (HPV) DNA	ASCUS interpretation of PAP
PSA Free Reflex (PSAR)	Total PSA	% Free PSA	Total PSA = 4-10 ng/ml
UA Dipstick Reflex (UDPR1)	Urine dipstick analysis	Microscopic analysis of urine	Abnormal dipstick results
SPE Reflex (SPER)	TP, Albumin, Alpha/Beta/Gamma, A/G	Immunofixation	Abnormal bands on SPE
Thyroid Function (TSHR)	TSH	T4, possible T3 (per algorithm)	TSH is abnormal
Urine Drug Screens	Common drugs of abuse	GCMS confirmation testing	Positive Screen