

EMRL 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.

Common Practice Automatic Reflex Testing

PRIMARY TEST	INCLUDES	REFLEX TEST	REFLEX CRITERIA
AFB Culture (<i>respiratory specimens only</i>)	AFB smear and AFB Culture	MTB/RIF by PCR to rule out <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (MTB) Rifampin resistance	Positive AFB smear
ANA Screen	Antinuclear antibody screen by EIA	ANA titer / pattern by IFA	Positive/equivocal ANA screen
CBC/DIFF	Cell counts, indices, automated diff	Manual WBC differential and RBC morphology	Abnormal flagging criteria
Routine Culture	Inoculation & interpretation of growth	ID of pathogenic bacteria, sensitivity	Presence/type of pathogens
Blood Culture set	Aerobic and anaerobic blood cultures	Second set of blood cultures	Order for one set of blood cultures
Cord Blood Direct Coombs (DAT)	Direct Coombs	Neonatal Total Bilirubin by heelstick	Positive Cord Blood DAT
Fetal Hemoglobin Screen	Fetal Hemoglobin Screen	Fetal Hemoglobin Stain (Kleihauer-Betke)	Positive Fetal Hemoglobin Screen
Hepatitis A screen (HAV)	Anti-HAV total	Anti-HAV IGM	Reactive anti-HAV total
Hepatitis B surface antigen (SAG)	SAG	Confirmatory SAG	Initial test is reactive
HIV 1 & 2 antibodies	EIA testing for antibodies	Confirmatory Western Blot method	Positive EIA test
Lupus Anticoagulant	Protime, PTT, DRVV	Confirmatory Platelet Neutralization	Positive DRVV test
Lyme (Serum)	Lyme IgG + IgM Screen	Lyme Disease Antibody, Confirmation (Western Blot)	Reactive or equivocal result
Malaria Smear	Malaria smear	Confirmation and species identification	Positive for parasitemia
Mixing studies	Circulating anticoagulants	Additional factor assays	Pathologist review
Treponema pallidum Antibody Immunoassay (IA)	Treponema pallidum Antibody IA	RPR ± FTA-ABS	Reactive Treponemal Antibody IA
Rapid Strep Screen	Rapid Strep Screen	Beta Strep culture	Negative screen
Troponin I, Troponin 0 hr, 2 hr, 6 hr	Troponin I	Lipid Panel *	Troponin ≥ 0.04 ng/ml
Type and Screen (pre-admission testing)	Blood type and antibody screen	Antibody investigation and two units of crossmatch compatible antigen negative packed red blood cells	Positive antibody screen

* Only if no previous Lipid Panel performed within previous seven days.