DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Policy Title: **Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Scope of Services Policy#101**

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Purpose:

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine performs approximately 4.3 million tests per year. Of these, nearly 2.4 million (or about 56%) are for inpatients and 1.9 (or 44%) are for outpatients. Those annual volumes are achieved across the following four testing laboratories:

- Christiana Hospital Laboratory
- Wilmington Hospital Laboratory
- Middletown Emergency Department Laboratory
- Helen F. Graham Cancer Center Laboratory [M-F (8A-5P); routine business days only]

Policy:

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, (unless otherwise noted). Other services provided and/or supported by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Services:

- **Phlebotomy Services**
  - Inpatient phlebotomy services at both Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals are contracted through a third-party vendor; and that relationship is managed by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Services.
  - Outpatient phlebotomy services are provided exclusively by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Services.
- **Point of Care Testing** (more than 1 million tests per year)
  - The laboratory is responsible for all Point of Care testing performed on inpatients and outpatients at Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals as well as patients at the

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Middletown Emergency Department. The testing is performed by non-laboratory personnel. However, the laboratory has technical oversight responsibility for all Point of Care Testing at all ChristianaCare satellite facilities.

- **Anatomic Pathology**
    - Surgical pathology (approximately 26,000 specimens annually), and Cytopathology (approximately 6,000 specimens annually) services are routinely available Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:30PM.
    - After hours AP services, such as frozen sections and rapid processing, are available by contacting the pathologist on call through Vocera.

Primary recipients of the department's services are inpatients and outpatients requiring laboratory services at the request of their healthcare provider. ChristianaCare Department of Pathology and Laboratory Services also serves as a referral laboratory for other healthcare facilities across the region.

All resources are arranged in a manner that supports patient care, including timely reporting of results. Expected turnaround times (TAT) for clinical laboratory tests can vary by the test ordered. However, the following can be expected based on the assigned order priority:

(acute care setting only): TAT of one hour (or less) * †

ROUTINE: TAT of four hours (or less) * †

* From receipt of sample in the laboratory (for tests run 24/7/365) to test verification/ report

† To be included in the next available batch/run (for all assays run on a batch schedule)

Exceptions to these values may be noted on a per test basis within the policies of the various sections of the laboratories.

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