

LABORATORY TESTS

SECTION:	Clinical Policies
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SUBJECT:	Laboratory Tests
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PURPOSE

Laboratory tests are necessary for adherence to established standards of psychiatric care.

POLICY

It is the policy of DBH that lab tests will be done consistent with current standards of medical care.

Clinicians will utilize laboratory test results appropriately, to help guide clinical decisions.

PROCEDURE

1. The test results will be promptly reported to the treating prescriber, and any other clinicians who may collaborate in treatment, and be evaluated for significance. Clinical decisions predicated by current standards of medical practice will be made, and implemented.
2. When the ordering clinician is not available to review test results, the results will be forwarded to their supervisor for review and appropriate action, if indicated.
3. When laboratory tests are ordered, but not completed due to actions of the client, the clinician will make a clinical determination as to appropriate action. Frequently, there are no validated standards of care in these situations. The clinician will therefore use his or her clinical judgment and document the decision.
4. After receiving laboratory test results, if printed, they will be initialed and dated by prescriber and sent to Medical Records. If test results are obtained by phone or other means without documentation, then the prescriber will report the lab test results in a medical note.
5. If DBH staff has unsuccessfully tried to obtain lab results, a brief description of steps taken will be documented and placed in the clinical record.