Labcorp LabAlert

May 2026

An Important Update from Laboratory Services

LIPID TESTING IS BROUGHT IN-HOUSE

Effective May 12, 2026, Total Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, and Triglycerides will be performed at the following Labcorp at Legacy Hospital Laboratories: Emanuel, Good Samaritan, Meridian Park, Mount Hood, and Salmon Creek. In addition, two lipid panels will be available at these locations: **LIPIDS** and **LIPIDRFLX**. If a panel is ordered, additional tests are calculated: LDL cholesterol, Non-HDL Cholesterol, and Total Cholesterol/HDL Ratio.

Instead of the traditional Friedewald equation[1] for calculating LDL, we will be using the modified Sampson/NIH equation.[2] The modified Sampson/NIH equation shows improved accuracy compared to other equations for low LDL-C, including Freidewald. It more accurately identifies high-risk patients, who are not at their LDL-C goals and could benefit from more intensive lipid-lowering therapy.[2-4] A direct LDL is still recommended if triglycerides are greater than 800 mg/dL. However, this is an improvement over the Friedewald equation, which recommended direct LDL when triglycerides were greater than 400 mg/dL. The direct LDL is automatically sent to a referral lab when the **LIPIDRFLX** panel is ordered and triglycerides exceed 800 mg/dL. If the **LIPIDS** panel is ordered, the direct LDL is not automatically reflexed, but a comment is added, if triglycerides exceed 800 mg/dL, recommending the direct LDL be ordered. A direct LDL can be added by ordering the test, **LDLCD** (LC 120295), and will be sent to the referral lab for testing.

Specimen requirements and reference intervals will be available on our Labcorp at Legacy test table. In brief, collect one 5.0 mL gold (SST), 7.0 mL red, or 3.0 mL mint green (lithium heparin, PST) top tubes. Fasting is strongly recommended for triglycerides and lipid panels to allow triglycerides to reach baseline. Additional ordering information is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Orderables and Basic Specimen Requirements

Test	Orderable	Includes		Specimen Requirements
		Measured Tests	Calculated Tests	
Cholesterol, Total	CHOL T	Cholesterol, Total	None	Collect a minimum of 0.60 mL whole blood to yield at least 0.25 mL Serum/Plasma. HDL must be separated from red blood cells within 3 hours of collection.
Cholesterol, HDL	HDL-C	Cholesterol, HDL	None	
Triglycerides	TRIG T	Triglycerides	None	
Lipid Panel	LIPIDS	Cholesterol, Total Cholesterol, HDL Triglycerides	Cholesterol, LDL Cholesterol, Non-HDL Cholesterol/ HDL Ratio	Collect a minimum of 1.50 mL whole blood to yield at least 0.50 mL Serum/Plasma. Separate serum/plasma from cells within 3 hours of collection.
Lipid Panel with Reflex	LIPIDRFLX	Cholesterol, Total Cholesterol, HDL Triglycerides Direct LDL is ordered automatically when the Triglycerides are >800 mg/dL.	Cholesterol, LDL Cholesterol, Non-HDL Cholesterol/ HDL Ratio	Collect a minimum of 2.50 mL whole blood to yield at least 1.25 mL Serum/Plasma. Separate serum/plasma from cells within 3 hours of collection.

References:

1. Friedewald WT, Levy RI, Frederickson DS, Estimation of the Concentration of Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol in Plasma, Without Use of the Preparative Ultracentrifuge, Clin Chem, 1972, 18(6): 499-502.
2. Sampson M, et al, A modified Sampson-NIH equation with improved accuracy for estimating low levels of low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol, Clin Chem, 2025, 71(11) 1125-1137.

3. Sampson M, et al, A new equation for calculation of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol in patients with normolipidemia and/or hypertriglyceridemia, JAMA Cardiol, 2020, 5(5): 540-548.
4. Koch CD, El-Khoury JM, New Sampson low-density lipoprotein equation: Better than Friedewald and Martin-Hopkins, Clin Chem, 2020, 66(8): 1120-1121.

*Labcorp is now the performing and billing laboratory for most Legacy Health lab testing. By combining Legacy Health's history of outstanding service with Labcorp's comprehensive test menu, lab medicine expertise and support capabilities, we are confident that we will build upon the outstanding tradition of delivering high-quality laboratory services to patients in the Portland & Southwest Washington communities.

For additional information, please contact your account representative, client services or consult the Lab Test Tables on our website.

Labcorp Client Services: 800-859-7001, www.legacyhealth.org\labservices