

## District 2 Public Health

### Guideline for General Laboratory Testing Follow Up

**Subjective:**

Client comes into health department and has laboratory testing as part of a clinical visit per nurse protocol, or in general lab (excludes Quest orders from private physicians), or as part of epidemiology follow up. At the time of the initial appointment talk with the client about how they may be reached for follow up lab results, document their preference and schedule a follow-up appointment if indicated.

**Objective:**

Health department receives laboratory results.

**Assessment:**

Lab test are reviewed and initialed by the nurse and results are determined.

**Plan:**

Patient is given results in any one of the following ways:

1. A phone call can be made to the client to discuss lab report and any treatment follow up needed. If client is a “do not contact” see # 4.
2. Letter can be mailed to the client requesting the client call the health department for follow up. Copies of the lab results are not mailed. The client may come into the health department to pick up copies of the results if needed.
3. An appointment is scheduled for the client to come to clinic for face to face visit and any appropriate treatment follow up.
4. If the patient is a “Do not contact” an appointment should have been made at the time of the initial appointment for lab results and follow up. Should the client fail to come for the follow up appointment you can contact the District Epi Team for help with follow up if Chlamydia, GC, Syphilis, or HIV.

For lab results not followed by District Epi, document 3 attempts to contact patient. Follow specific Programmatic Guidelines for contact attempts (ex. When to send certified letters, etc.)

Financial Note:

For GPLH specimens:

All specimens sent to GPLH have to be sent as patient pay for service or with an approval code. GPLH does not bill any 3<sup>rd</sup> party, including Medicaid/Medicare/Insurance at this time. Approval codes are issued from the state programs for specific labs. These labs will be billed to the state programmatic office and include the following labs:

- TB sputum specimens
- HIV Blood specimen obtained for RW Clinic, TB clinic, or as confirmatory testing after a positive preliminary OraQuick Test.
- GC/Chlamydia Test
- Any 'epi' related activity. This approval code will be issued as necessary for testing such as, but not limited to, outbreaks, emerging infections, influenza-like illness or special projects.

For patient pay labs, GPLH only charges us what the client pays. The health department will not be responsible for charges the client cannot pay. Adjust the invoice from the state lab accordingly. If the client paid a sliding scale percentage, adjust invoice to reflect the percentage amount to be remitted for the patient on that invoice.