DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
FOR RESEARCH SPECIMEN TESTING AT UCDMC

- **Who do I contact to perform testing at UCDMC?**
  Please email hs-pathresearch@ucdavis.edu and provide a brief outline of your project, ideally prior to IRB submission. Sending a draft or final protocol can also help expedite the process. Please also fill out and submit the study application form (CQR-001) to the best of your ability (http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/pathology/research/).

- **What can be tested through the UCDMC Clinical Laboratory?**
  Tests available at the UCDMC Clinical Laboratory can be obtained from the testing directory (www.testmenu.com/ucdavis). Please note, certain tests are restricted to clinical use only and require prior Pathology approval for research. The list of restricted tests can be found here (http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/pathology/research/).

- **How much does it cost?**
  The latest Epic cost query tool is used to determine the pricing for each test. Note that test prices may vary based on the type of study (clinical, industry, or applied research): http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/clinicaltrials/BudgetingBilling/index.html

- **I already have an IRB approved study, what should I do?**
  Please contact the Pathology Research Coordination Team as soon as possible (hs-pathresearch@ucdavis.edu). Specimen testing cannot occur until Pathology provides approval. It is the investigators responsibility to ensure the IRB protocol is current.
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- **How will I receive my results?**
  Specimens that are not tied to a specific patient on the UCDMC Electronic Medical Record System will be reported on paper and/or as scanned copies. We currently do not offer data reporting on electronic spreadsheets (*e.g.*, Excel).

- **Can I send any type of sample?**
  Certain specimen types and storage conditions are not appropriate for testing. Please review test collection and storage requirements at www.testmenu.com/ucdavis. Specimen containers should also be similar to what is routinely tested at UCDMC. However non-standard specimen collection devices may be accepted on a case-by-case basis and may require the investigator to aliquot the samples themselves into appropriate tubes.

- **How long does it take for testing to be completed?**
  Testing turnaround time for research studies is dependent on the type of test. Typically, one week turnaround time is requested, however certain other tests may take longer.

- **Can I store and/or process samples in the Clinical Laboratory?**
  The UCDMC Clinical Laboratory does not currently offer short-term or long-term specimen storage.

- **How can I get samples from the Clinical Laboratory?**
  Specimens can be made available for studies that have been approved by the Pathology Clinical Research Oversight Committee and UC Davis Institutional Review Board. The process to obtain samples must be discussed early to avoid study delays since certain specimens may require additional staff time to collect.

- **Can I request a new test to be performed for a research study?**
  All new tests must be approved by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as well as the UCDMC Test Utilization Committee. This process may require extensive review that exceeds normal turnaround times for research studies. We recommend studies consider alternative tests or laboratories that may perform this testing. However, any send out laboratory tests must still be approved by Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

- **Do blood draw only studies (*i.e.,* no testing is performed) need to come through the laboratory?**
  Even though testing is not performed, blood collection alone must also be reviewed by the Pathology Clinical Research Oversight Committee.

- **Can the UCDMC Laboratory perform animal or non-biological testing?**
  Animal specimens are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, however, all mouse and rat samples are not accepted. Mice and rat specimens can be tested by the Comparative Pathology Laboratory on the main UC Davis campus. Non-human primate specimens must be approved through the California National Primate Research Center and the Pathology Clinical Research Oversight Committee. Non-biological specimens are also treated on a case-by-case basis, and are typically not approved for testing.

- **Why are some tests “restricted”?**
  Certain tests require extensive manual processing which would impact patient care or require substantial resources would make research testing cost-prohibitive for the institution. Restricted tests require significant justification for approval including assurances that the test volumes would not impact the clinical laboratory workflow. The clinical laboratory reserves the right to discontinue these serves at any point based on patient care demands.