Urgent requests
Labtests' target turnaround time for urgent requests is six hours, an agreed KPI with ARDHB's and similar to that provided by DML. However we frequently report urgent results in a shorter timeframe.

If you require a result sooner than six hours please write the time required on the request form. We can then arrange for urgent transportation to the laboratory.

When requesting urgent tests, please provide the clinical indication for an urgent test, so that that we can assist with results interpretation.

Troponin
Labtests will measure cardiac troponin levels using the Siemens Centaur Troponin I (c-Tnl) assay. This assay has a diagnostic cut-off of >40ng/L (compared to the diagnostic cut-off for Troponin T of 14ng/L as used by other laboratories. Values above 40ng/L in the c-Tnl test are indicative of myocardial injury.

Higher values are generally associated with increased severity of injury (although this may not always follow):
- C-Tnl levels become elevated within 2 to 3 hours after the onset of symptoms, peak at 18-24 hours, and remain elevated for up to 14 days.
- A negative result for c-Tnl should be repeated in 6-12 hours post the onset of chest pain if acute myocardial infarction (AMI) is suspected. Clearly, where AMI is indicated on clinical grounds or from evidence of ECG changes, requestors should not wait for a troponin result before arranging urgent referral.

Cervical cytology
Labtests can collect all your laboratory specimens at your request including cervical cytology samples. Southern Community Laboratories (SCL) processes and reports all cervical cytology samples collected by Labtests.

SCL has a contract with the National Cervical Screening Programme to provide cervical cytology services throughout New Zealand. SCL is part of the same laboratory group (Healthscope NZ) as Labtests and uses the Surepath™ liquid cytology test. These tests will be processed and reported from our large national cervical cytology laboratory in Dunedin.

The Surepath™ system is free to women. Our staff screen the smears using the BD Focal Point imaging system, which provides state of the art automated assisted screening technology.

If you elect to use this service then you will not have to separate your other specimens on the same woman, for example a chlamydia test or a vaginal/cervical swab. These can all be included on the same request form as the Surepath™ cervical smear sample, so you will not need to complete a second request form. The Labtests couriers will collect the Surepath™ cytology samples along with all the other tests for them.

The reports will be issued within 3-5 days and will be sent electronically to you in the normal manner. All of our results go automatically to the NCSP register. If you require a paper copy, these will be printed in Auckland and distributed by Labtests couriers.

Results mapping
Labtests and medtech have the ability to assist you in aligning historical DML results into the cumulative module.

If you would like assistance in this matter please contact your Labtests’ Medical Liaison Officer.

Accessing historic results
For enquiries regarding results of tests undertaken prior to transition please continue to contact DML. Results of tests performed at Labtests after that date will be available by contacting Labtests results line: 09 574 7398.

Repeat patient request procedure
In the interim patients can continue to use the DML repeat card.