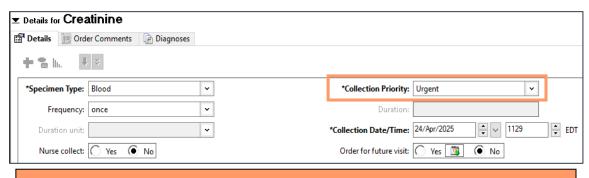# LAB COLLECTION PRIORITIES

ALL NURSING & PRESCRIBERS

A guide for selecting the appropriate collection priority when ordering **'Lab Collect'** blood draws to ensure timely receipt by lab for processing.

Priority: URGENT – for situations where the lab draw is needed to be collected <u>before</u> the next standard collection time.
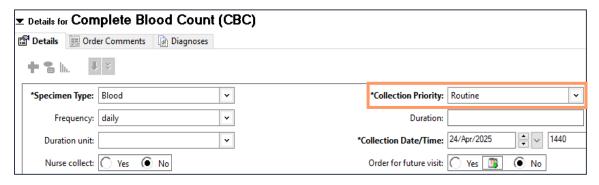
Example: Lab draw of creatinine is needed before the IV administration of vancomycin.

For most orders, the priority is set to **Routine** as a default and will need to be changed.

Priority: ROUTINE – for standard and non-urgent lab collections. Routine orders are set to be collected by the lab on the next standard collection run, and are only visible to the lab <u>10mins</u> prior to the next standard collection time.
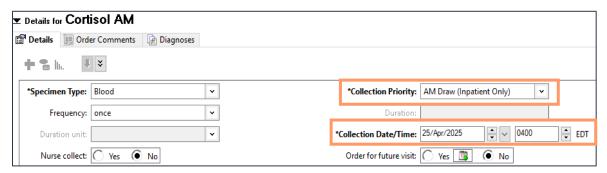
Example: Daily CBC's, SEP's, etc…

Priority: AM-DRAW – for inpatients only; labs are to be collected at the first standard collection time in the morning.
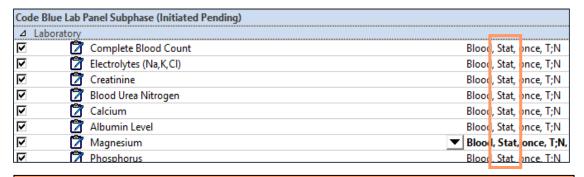
Example: Morning cortisol draws.

After selecting **AM Draw**, the **Collection Date/Time** will automatically populate to the next morning collection time.

Priority: STAT – for immediate situations <u>ONLY.</u>

Example: Patient is coding and you are ordering the *Code Blue Lab Panel*.

In this order set, the priority is automatically set to STAT and does not need to be changed.
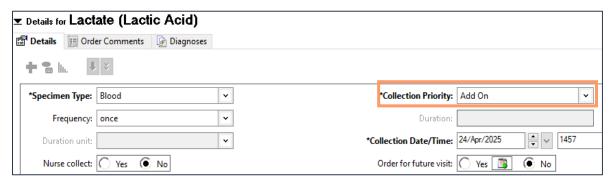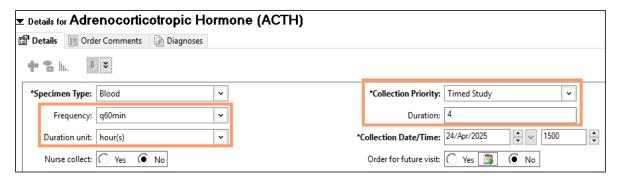
Priority: ADD-ON – for adding extra lab test(s) to a pre-existing order or specimen.

Example: Adding a lactate test to a previously ordered venous blood gas.

Priority: TIMED-STUDY – for lab draws in which measurements of the specimen are required at specific/multiple intervals.

Example: Measuring ACTH levels q1 hour for a duration of 4 hours.

For time-studies, the *frequency*, *duration* and *duration unit* must be included.