

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



SUBJECT: STANDARDS FOR OUTSIDE SERVICE MEDICAL
LABORATORIES

POLICY NO. 332

PURPOSE:: To establish standards for outside service medical laboratory tests performed by private laboratories by Purchase Order Contract for the Department, in order to serve both the patient's and the public's interest and to prevent any real or apparent conflict of interest regarding the ordering of laboratory tests.

POLICY:: The following standards have been established by the Department for laboratories providing service for the County under a Purchase Order Contract issued by the County Purchasing Agent. Full compliance with these standards shall be expected.

1. COST

The cost of the laboratory test to patients, third-party payers or tax payers shall be the current applicable bid price, unless there is significant variance from the contractual specifications in the test performed to justify a higher cost.

2. TURN AROUND TIME

The turn-around time shall be in the best interest of the patient.

3. QUALITY

Quality shall be controlled and assured by laboratory quality control, participation in Federal and State licensing, peer group inspection and accreditation programs, and ongoing blind proficiency testing by the Department.

4. EDUCATION

Laboratories performing service for the County may be responsible for education of County personnel in certain test areas.

5. CONSULTATION

Qualified specialists to assist in the interpretation of the laboratory results should be present in the laboratory performing the tests.

6. OPERATION SUPPORT

Operations support elements, such as personnel, logistics support, transportation and communication should be the same whether the laboratory is performing work for the Department or another party.

7. LEGAL REGULATIONS

The laboratory shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws

and regulations.

8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No physician shall personally profit from ordering, or causing to be ordered, laboratory tests.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Nov 24, 1975

SUPERCEDES:

APPROVED: Signature on File
