

HOW TO READ YOUR CLINICAL LABORATORY REPORT

Clinical laboratory tests have an immeasurable impact on diagnostic and treatment decisions made by physicians. The information provided by clinical lab tests is helping to diagnose, treat, and monitor patients as accurately and quickly as possible enabling early detection and prevention.

Capital Digestive Care Laboratory is backed by board-certified clinical laboratory technologists and pathologists.

Capital Digestive Care Laboratory has developed the following information to help you understand your clinical lab report.

Clinical lab reports vary regarding the information they contain. However, each report will document the significant details that affect the management of your diagnosis or disease process.

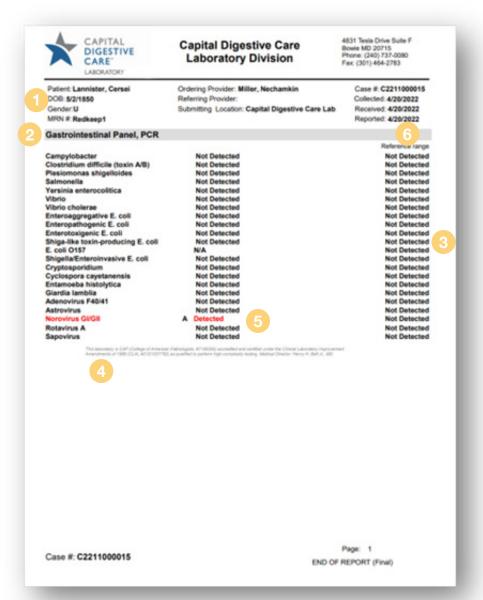


PATIENT IDENTIFIERS

To ensure that the report is about you and your specimen, each clinical lab report contains your patient identifiers—specific information that relates directly to you and includes your name, birth date, submitting location and medical record number. In addition, our laboratory's name and address will appear on the report.

The container in which your specimen is sent to the laboratory also is labeled with your patient identifiers and matched to your medical record to ensure that the specimen is from you. After the specimen arrives in the laboratory, these identifiers are checked repeatedly to ensure the correct information is provided to your medical team.

All laboratory departments have a numbering system that is used to specifically and uniquely label each patient specimen. These numbers are called case numbers, and they help identify your specimen as it is processed by the laboratory.





ORDER CHOICE

The order choice is the test or group of tests your physician ordered. In this example, the order choice the specimen was submitted for is the "Gastrointestinal Panel, PCR". PCR or Polymerase Chain Reaction is the method of testing that was used.



TEST SECTION

The test section lists all the tests that fall under the specific order choice. These are the tests that are performed on your specimen. In this example, 22 tests comprise the order choice, Gastrointestinal Panel.



ACCREDITATION

The accreditation and certification statement provides information on who the laboratory is accredited with and ID numbers.



RESULT

The result of your tests can be a number (quantitative) or phrase (qualitative) such as "Detected" or "Not Detected" depending on the test. For this example, a qualitative measurement was used.



REFERENCE RANGE

A reference range is a set of values (quantitative test) or phrases (qualitative test) that states what the normal result should be based on a group of otherwise healthy people. In this example, a normal result would be "Not Detected". If a result falls outside the normal range, the test will appear in red and have an "A" or "H" next to it for "Abnormal" or "High".