



## Direct to Consumer Laboratory Testing Legal Information / Disclaimer and Waiver

The informational nature of the tests: The San Luis Valley Health (SLVH) Laboratories provides Direct to Consumer Laboratory Testing (DTC), including accompanying reference ranges (expected normal ranges), for your informational purposes only. **Direct to Consumer Laboratory Testing cannot substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Diagnosis and treatment of human illness should be based on your medical history, including your family's medical history, and a physical examination, along with your doctor's professional judgment and review of test results.**

It is therefore important for you to discuss your test results with your personal physician/health care provider. Physician judgment must remain central to the selection of diagnostic tests and therapy options of a specific patient's medical condition. **Always seek the advice of your doctor if you have any questions, and before you stop, start or change any treatment plan, including the use of medication. If you do not have a personal physician, the San Luis Valley Health Laboratory Manager (719-587-1225 or 719-274-6021) will provide you with the list and phone numbers of local licensed health care providers,** to assist you in contacting a provider for medical advice, diagnosis and treatment.

**LIMITATIONS OF LABORATORY TESTING:** Your laboratory tests are completed in a CLIA-certified laboratory, utilizing stringent quality-control standards. However, no guarantees are made with respect to accuracy, completeness, errors or omissions of content. In no event will San Luis Valley Health, its Laboratory Director, or SLVH personnel be liable for any decision made, action taken, or action omitted, based upon the information provided through this Direct to Consumer Laboratory Testing program. The tests provided are known to have a certain percentage of false-negative results (disease is present, but lab value is normal), and false-positive results (no disease is present, but lab value is abnormal). Therefore, whether your lab results are normal or abnormal, you should consult with your physician/health care provider to determine the significance of your laboratory values.

**NORMAL RESULTS:** A normal laboratory result does not exclude the presence of serious disease, such as cancer. People with cancer and other serious diseases can have normal laboratory values. Pregnant women can have negative pregnancy tests if the test is performed early in pregnancy. Up to one in four men with prostate cancer will have a normal PSA result. PSA testing should always be accompanied by a digital rectal examination, which is part of a regular examination by your personal physician.

**ABNORMAL RESULTS:** Abnormal laboratory results do not necessarily mean that disease is present. Many variables, including diet, exercise, medications/supplements, and inflammatory conditions can affect laboratory values. In addition, the conditions to which specimens (blood or urine) are collected, stored and transported, can affect laboratory values.

Consumer Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Consumer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**LEGEND FOR INTERPRETING RESULTS ON REPORTS:** I understand that results outside the expected “normal” reference range will be indicated as letters next to the numerical value result. “H” means high value, “L” means low value, “HC” means “high critical” value, “LC” means “low critical” value.

**ROLE OF LABORATORY DIRECTOR AND LABORATORY PERSONNEL IN DIRECT TO CONSUMER LABORATORY TESTING:**

With Direct to Consumer Laboratory Testing, the SLVH Laboratory Director does not receive your results and does not review your results. There is no doctor-patient relationship between the Laboratory Director and the Test Subject/Consumer requesting the tests. **The Laboratory Director will not be interpreting your results, acting on your results, or giving medical advice concerning the significance of your lab values.** Likewise, Laboratory personnel will not be interpreting your results. Results must be interpreted by your personal physician/health care provider.

**Your test results will only be sent to you, not to your physician. It is your responsibility to share the lab results with your physician/health care provider, and to schedule an appointment to discuss your results with your physician/health care provider.**

**CRITICAL VALUE RESULTS:** Certain laboratory values are considered “critical values” (or alert values). Critical value results are lab results which are considered life threatening and require urgent medical attention by a health care provider, such as your personal physician or an emergency room physician. If your test shows a “critical value,” the laboratory staff will call you to give you the critical value result, and will recommend that you contact a physician/health care provider immediately.

**It is your responsibility to immediately report any critical value to your health care provider, or to a nearby emergency room doctor, if you do not have a provider. The Laboratory will not be calling your doctor with any critical values obtained.**

For purposes of communicating to you any “critical results,” you are agreeing that SLVH Laboratory may leave a voicemail message on your telephone answering machine (or cell phone), asking you to call the Lab immediately to obtain a critical result. In the event that the Lab cannot reach you by leaving voicemail for you, you are also agreeing that SLVH Lab can call your listed “Emergency contact,” to ask them to help us notify you to call the SLVH Lab immediately.

**MAILING OF RESULTS:** Otherwise, laboratory results will be mailed to you within four days of specimen collection. **Since results will be mailed to you at your address, you accept responsibility should someone else at that address access these results. If you do not receive your results within one week, it is your responsibility to call the Laboratory Manager at 719-587-1225 in Alamosa or 719 274-6021 in La Jara to obtain your results.**

**PRIVACY:** SLVH respects your privacy. Personal information collected from customers will not, unless required by law, be shared with any third party. The primary reason we collect personal information is for identification purposes and to enable you to obtain your test results. We do not distribute unsolicited e-mails, nor, unless required by law, do we share the names of customers with any third party.

**SLVH EMPLOYEE EXPOSURE POLICY:** You understand that SLVH Laboratory has a policy to test DTC subjects/consumers for viral Hepatitis and HIV (AIDS) in the event that a Lab employee sustains an accidental exposure to your blood. You are consenting to viral Hepatitis testing and HIV (AIDS) testing, in the event of employee exposure to your blood and the results of such testing will be shared with you.

**THIRD PARTY PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT:** Direct to Consumer Laboratory Testing may or may not be reimbursed by a health insurance company or by Medicare, Medicaid, or any other city, state or federal program. Please check with your health insurance company or with Medicare, Medicaid, or any other city, state or federal program.

**PAYMENTS:** I understand that full payment is expected at the time of specimen collection. No other billing will occur, and there is no refund option available.