

A simple, confidential, and inexpensive way to proactively manage your health.

What is Direct Access Laboratory Testing (DAT)?
In recent years, there has been an increase in consumers who want greater involvement in decisions affecting their healthcare. DAT enables this involvement, providing individuals more control over their personal health information. This option for lab tests is simple, confidential, inexpensive and offers patients the ability to be proactive in regard to their wellness.

With DAT you have the option to order selected lab tests on your own, without a physician's order. Results will be mailed to you for you to review with your physician. Your payment for the Direct Access Laboratory Test is required up front, by cash, check or credit card. A waiver explaining DAT specifics must be reviewed and signed prior to the blood draw. Persons under 18 years old will require a parent or legal guardian to sign.

What is the difference between Direct Access Lab Tests and SVH Laboratory physician ordered screens?

Because DAT tests have no physician referral, SVH cannot include the test results in patients' medical records – the results will not be available to your physician until you provide them. Results of Direct Access Lab Tests will not be stored in your Medical Record. This means that physicians will not be responsible to act upon the results, unless you yourself distribute the DAT results to your physician and he/she agrees to accept and interpret your results. It is important for you to take personal responsibility for your own health needs, obtaining appropriate medical follow-up care and treatment, as needed, if you receive low (L), high (H), low critical (LC) or high critical (HC) results. You should also be aware that results within the normal reference range do not ensure health.

What if testing yields critical results and require immediate attention?

When you register for your test(s) you will include a phone number in your information. If a result is obtained by the laboratory that would require immediate medical attention you will be called at the telephone number you have provided. It is your responsibility to follow up accordingly with your physician/provider.

How do I arrange for my test?

You will register at the front desk of St. Vincent Hospital and pay for the tests you choose. You will then be directed to the lab. In the lab you will be asked to sign a waiver. The Laboratory staff will answer any questions you have regarding the waiver information, before the draw occurs. Direct Access Laboratory Testing will not be billed to your insurance, and is usually not reimbursable to you by your insurance.

What DAT services are available in the St. Vincent Hospital Lab?

Twenty tests (including four panels) are now available. The complete menu of tests is listed on the back of this brochure.

Are there special instructions for any of the tests?

A 12-hour fast is recommended for non-diabetics who will have Blood Chemistry, Lipid Panel, Women's Health Panel, Men's Health Panel, and Glucose testing. If you have questions about fasting, call the Laboratory at 719-486-7150.

How can I understand my test results?

Make an appointment with your physician or medical provider to discuss the significance of your test results. The SVH Lab can supply you with a list of area providers if you do not have a doctor of your own.

Can Direct Access Laboratory Testing be used as a substitute for examination by a medical doctor?

No. Laboratory testing should not be used as the only means to diagnose the presence or absence of disease (or any medical condition). You will need to share your test results with your physician, and the test results should be used as part of a complete medical examination.

Will SVH Laboratory bill insurance for a Direct Access Test?

No. SVH Laboratory will not bill insurance or any third-party payers for DAT tests. Payment for DAT is expected at the time of service.

Will my insurance company reimburse me for the cost of tests?

Since DAT tests are not ordered by a physician, most insurance companies will not reimburse you for the cost of the test. Please check with your insurance company.

How do I get my results?

SVH will mail your results within days of your test. Our lab will call you if Critical results or alert values are found. If, for some reason, you must pick up your lab results in person. A photo ID will be required.

Where do I find more information on the Direct Access Laboratory Tests?

If you are interested in more information about the DAT tests, general information is available at the following websites: www.webmd.com or www.labtestsonline.org.

