

## Essential Steps of the Analytic System Infographic

The second phase of the Total Testing Process is the analytic system, which includes testing patient specimens in a laboratory setting. Written procedure manuals for specimen preparation and testing should be readily available to laboratory professionals. Specimen preparation and testing procedures will be laboratory specific.

### 1. Specimen Preparation

Specimen preparation is the first step in the analytic system. The specimen used for testing may be a portion of the patient specimen, which has been prepped for the testing procedures to be performed.

The laboratory defines criteria for appropriate testing conditions, which may include:

- Proper storage of reagents, quality control materials, and specimens.
- Accurate and reliable test system operation including preventative maintenance.



### 2. Specimen Testing

Specimen testing is performed to gather data and is the last step in the analytic system. Monitoring and documenting testing conditions can help assess the quality of the testing system.

Specimen testing procedures include:

- Testing performance using the appropriate testing methods and procedures.
- Raw data and repeating tests if required.

Laboratory testing and quality control activities include:

- Control procedures.
- Calibration procedures.
- Calibration verification procedures.
- Analytic system quality assessment procedures.

