

# Introduction to Laboratory Informatics: Life of a Specimen

## Communicating Results

The post-analytic phase consists of communicating the testing results and the storage or disposal of the specimen.

During the first step, LIMS reports must be prepared and completed prior to communicating results. Afterwards, results are communicated based on how they are being used. This step will be discussed in more detail during the Introduction to Laboratory Informatics: Life of a Result course.

The last step in the post-analytic phase is the storage or disposal of the specimen. The laboratory will review laboratory policies to decide whether the specimen will be put into storage or be disposed of. Regardless of the outcome of this decision, the laboratory must follow the proper procedures to ensure specimen integrity, patient and data confidentiality, and laboratory safety.