Pre-Analytics in A Laboratory Diagnostics Setup: Enhancing Quality and Efficiency

Dissertation Submitted to

The IIHMR University, Jaipur

for the partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

in Hospital and Health Management

by

Dr Amreen Ali

Under the Supervision and Guidance of

Vinod Kumar SV

2023

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DECLARATION BY STUDENT

I hereby declare that this dissertation titled **Pre-Analytics in A Laboratory Diagnostics Setup: Enhancing Quality and Efficiency**

is the bonafide record of my original research.

work. I declare that it has not been submitted to any other university or institution for the award of any degree or diploma. Information derived from the published or unpublished work of others has been duly acknowledged in the text.

(Signature)

Name of Student: Dr Amreen Ali

Date:

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Dr Amreen Ali in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of MBA (Hospital and Health Management) from the IIHMR University, Jaipur has successfully completed her/his internship at Karkinos Healthcare during March 15-May 31, 2023.

Place:

Preceptor/Head of the Organization

Name of the organization

Date:

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that dissertation titled **Pre-Analytics in A Laboratory Diagnostics Setup: Enhancing Quality and Efficiency** is a record of the research work undertaken by Dr Amreen Ali in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of MBA (Hospital and Health Management from the IIHMR University, Jaipur under my guidance and supervision and her approach to the research study has been sincere, scientific, and analytical.

Faculty Guide

IIHMR University, Jaipur

Date

School Dean

IIHMR University, Jaipur

Date

2023

ABSTRACT

Background:

Pre-analytics is the term for the gathering, handling, moving, and storing of biological samples before in-lab analysis. It is an essential step in the diagnostic procedure that has a big impact on the precision and dependability of test results. Pre-analytics' objective is to guarantee that the obtained samples are free of pre-analytical errors or contaminants and that they retain their integrity. To reduce the possibility of sample degradation, contamination, or other factors that can compromise the quality and validity of the ensuing laboratory tests, proper preanalytical practices, including standardized protocols, suitable equipment, and qualified personnel, are crucial. Healthcare practitioners can optimize the diagnostic process and ultimately enhance patient care by paying close attention to pre-analytics.

Objective:

The objective of the given pre-analytics study is

1. To present a comprehensive review of current standards and procedures of a diagnostic laboratory setup.
2. Identifying the gaps in the pre-analytics aspect in a new diagnostic setup.
3. Review risk mitigation procedures for pre-analytics.

Methodology:

Data from the internal laboratory system were combined with descriptive analysis as part of the methodology used in this investigation. The goal was to carefully review and analyze various parts of the research issue.

To develop a thorough understanding of the topic, descriptive analysis was carried out. As quantitative data was gathered from the internal system, key variables were discovered and specified by reviewing pertinent literature.

A useful source of information on experimental techniques, outcomes, and equipment usage was the laboratories' internal system. Measures were taken, such as validation checks and coordination with laboratory staff, to guarantee the accuracy and dependability of the data. Protocols for data security and privacy were properly adhered to.

Statistical methods were used to analyze the data that had been collected. While inferential statistics investigated connections between variables, descriptive statistics summarized the quantitative data.

Overall, the research issue could be thoroughly investigated thanks to the mixed-methods methodology. Descriptive analysis along with data from the internal system gave us important new information about how laboratories operate.

Results:

The analysis exposed severe flaws in the pre-analytical infrastructure that is already in place, particularly in sample management and employee procedures. The techniques for collecting, handling, and transporting samples were found to be inconsistent, which caused variances in the integrity and quality of the samples. The difficulties in preserving sample quality were further exacerbated by inadequate training and awareness among laboratory staff. Workflow efficiency was also hampered by unclear roles and duties among the workers and poor communication with the medical professionals taking the samples. The reliability and accuracy of laboratory test results can be improved by addressing these gaps through standard protocols, training initiatives, and enhanced communication.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the findings from this study shed light on the critical importance of addressing gaps in the pre-analytical phase of laboratory processes. The identified issues in sample management and personnel practices highlight potential risks to the accuracy and reliability of laboratory test results. Standardizing procedures, enhancing training programs, and improving communication and collaboration are crucial steps in mitigating these challenges. By implementing these measures, laboratories can significantly improve the quality and integrity of samples, streamline workflows, and ultimately ensure more accurate and trustworthy diagnostic outcomes. The study emphasizes the need for ongoing efforts to optimize pre-analytical practices and highlights the potential impact on overall laboratory performance and patient care.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who have supported me throughout my journey in completing this thesis. Their guidance, encouragement, and assistance have been invaluable, and I am truly grateful for their contributions.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my college, IIHMR University, Jaipur & Dr. P. R. Sodani for providing me with the opportunity to pursue my research and academic endeavors. The conducive learning environment, excellent resources, and knowledgeable faculty members have played a pivotal role in shaping my educational experience.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my college guide, Dr Vinod Kumar SV. His expertise, patience, and mentorship have been invaluable throughout the research process. His consistent guidance, constructive criticism, and willingness to invest time and effort in my academic development have immensely contributed to the successful completion of this thesis.

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I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my friends from college and my organization who have been a constant source of support and motivation. Their encouragement, discussions, and collaborative efforts have played a vital role in shaping my ideas and pushing me forward during challenging times.

Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the participants and individuals who graciously agreed to be a part of this research. Their willingness to share their experiences, insights, and time has been invaluable in providing the necessary data and enriching the findings of this study.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for their unwavering support, understanding, and encouragement throughout this journey. Their love, belief in my abilities, and sacrifices have been the driving force behind my achievements.

To everyone who has contributed to my academic and research journey, whether mentioned by name or not, please accept my heartfelt appreciation. Your support, guidance, and encouragement have made this thesis possible, and I am forever grateful for your presence in my life.

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Dr Amreen Ali

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables

List of Figures

Abbreviations

1. **EDTA** – Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid
2. **FFPE** – formalin-fixed paraffin embedded.
3. **LIMS** – Laboratory Information Management System
4. **TAT** – Turn Around Time
5. **TRF** – Test Request Form
6. **TTP** – Total Testing Process

1. Introduction

The Total Testing Process in a laboratory setup includes all the steps involved in conducting diagnostic tests. Ensuring quality is a fundamental concern for all laboratories, necessitating the implementation of total quality management throughout the entire laboratory process, including the pre-analytic, analytic, and post-analytic phases. Total quality management encompasses all stages of sample processing, starting from test ordering to the final interpretation of results by clinicians. The aim is to minimize or eliminate errors that may occur during each step, thereby enhancing the overall quality of laboratory services.

The Total Testing Process:

The entire testing process, from the first test ordering through the interpretation of the test results, is referred to as the total testing process. The pre-analytical step, the analytical step, and the post-analytical step are the three separate steps of this process, which starts and concludes with the patient.

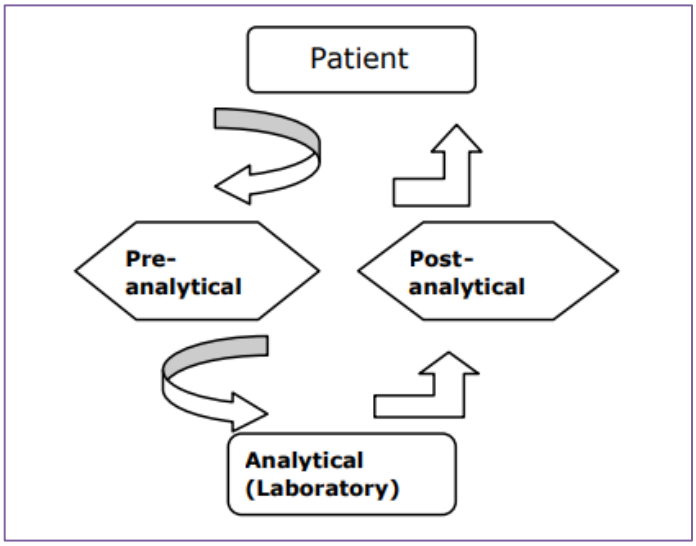


Fig 1.1: Total Testing Process

For the scope of this study, we will be only focusing on the Pre-analytics aspect of laboratory testing.

In a new laboratory setup, pre-analytics is really important for accurate and reliable scientific research. Pre-analytics includes all the steps before actual testing, like collecting, transporting, processing, and storing samples. These procedures are essential since they influence the caliber of the outcomes. First, samples need to be collected carefully and properly. Trained people follow specific rules to make sure the samples are not contaminated and represent what they're supposed to. To preserve samples in good condition throughout travel and storage, it is also crucial to employ the right containers and preservation techniques.

It is essential to move samples from the place of collection to the lab safely. To prevent any deterioration or alterations in the samples, meticulous handling is necessary. It requires appropriate labelling, packaging, and temperature control, often requiring specialised tools like dry ice or temperature-controlled containers.

The samples are processed to get them ready for testing once they get to the lab. This involves classifying, arranging, and carrying out appropriate processes like centrifugation or filtration to remove particular components from blood, such plasma. It's crucial to follow instructions and keep everything clean to prevent sample contamination. To keep samples' integrity throughout time, they must be stored properly. According on the type of samples, the laboratory must offer suitable settings, such as the right temperature, humidity, and lighting. A successful tracking system is also required to keep track of sample location, consumption, and disposal.

Additionally, rigorous record-keeping and data management are also important. All information pertaining to sample collection, transportation, processing, and storage must be tracked and documented. This guarantees protocol adherence and makes it easier to evaluate the results. Also, establishing a secure and organized system for data storage is of utmost importance.

Overall, pre-analytics in a new lab is very important for getting good results in clinical as well as research aspect. By following the rules, using the right equipment, and paying attention to

details, labs can make sure their results are accurate and can be trusted. Taking care of pre-analytics not only helps with getting good results but also makes the research more efficient and productive.

2. Review of Literature

The early steps of laboratory testing called pre-analytics, including the collection, transportation, processing, and storage of samples, are examined in this review. This situation is prevalent all over the world. Through the study of existing research, methodologies, challenges, and improvements, an understanding of how pre-analytics is conducted in different laboratories is sought.

Methodology:

Relevant articles were searched for in databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and research journals to conduct this review. Keywords such as "pre-analytics," "sample collection," "laboratory setup," and "Standardization" were used. Only works written in English and released between 2005 and 2023 were taken into account. The emphasis was on studies that looked at pre-analytics' procedures and difficulties in a lab setting.

2.1 Review of Literature:

Author	Objective	Conclusion
1. Managing the Pre- and Post-analytical Phases of the Total Testing Process *Robert Hawkins, M.D.*	To decrease the errors in the laboratory	Studies have shown that the pre-analytical phase is more error-prone compared to the analytical phase and post-analytical phase. The proportion of errors associated with the pre-analytical phase is consistently over half of all errors reported in published studies. Despite reductions in error rates, the pattern of errors remains largely unchanged, with the pre-analytical phase accounting for a significant percentage of errors. There is a need for improvement in the quality of the pre-analytical phase to minimize errors and enhance patient safety.
2. Pre-analytical workstations: A tool for reducing laboratory errors. *Giorgio Da Rin*	Need to decrease the errors in pre-analytic phase	Given that a significant portion of errors within the total testing process occur during the pre-analytical phase, it is essential to prioritize this step, which occurs outside the laboratory, to effectively decrease overall errors and enhance patient safety. A primary objective in this endeavor is to guarantee accurate specimen collection from the correct patient, utilizing the appropriate container, and maintaining the proper patient association consistently, from the initial collection onward.
3. Risk identification of a hospital laboratory pre-analytics through	To evaluate the pre-analytical phase of laboratory testing, minimize potential risks, and enhance patient safety in a hospital laboratory.	Utilizing Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) as a standardized approach, the pre-analytical phase of laboratory testing can be systematically assessed to analyze potential risks.

failure mode and effect analysis *Debdatta Das, Krishna Pal, Sudip Roy, Moushumi Lodh*		
4. The importance of pre-analytics *Peter Hagemann*	To address the significant issue of pre-analytical errors, which account for two-thirds of all laboratory errors, with a specific focus on their identification and mitigation to enhance overall laboratory accuracy and reliability.	Prioritizing the identification and mitigation of pre-analytical errors is crucial for improving laboratory accuracy and reliability, as they constitute a significant proportion of overall laboratory errors.
5. Pre-analytic variability in cardiovascular biomarker testing *Roberto Cemin and Massimo Daves*	Addresses the determinants of pre-analytical variability in cardiovascular biomarker testing	Pre-analytical variability, resulting from factors such as patient preparation, blood drawing, sample transportation, and preparation, is identified as the primary contributor to laboratory errors. Multiple sources of evidence indicate that around 70% of laboratory errors stem from the pre-analytical phase, surpassing the analytical and post-analytical phases in their impact.
6. Current Projects in Pre-analytics: Where to Go? *Gunn B.B. Kristensen*	Standardization of tissue handling in pre-analytical procedures in Europe	The investment in pre-analytics has the potential to bring about positive impacts on both public health challenges and practical advancements in solid tumor processing.

7. Quality Indicators to Detect Pre-Analytical Errors in Laboratory Testing *Mario Plebani*	Defining quality indicators in pre-analytics phase and assessing the errors caused.	In conclusion, it is important for quality indicators (QIs) to encompass all aspects of the pre-analytical phase, ranging from test requesting to sample storage.
8. Preanalytical error occurrence rate in clinical chemistry laboratory of a public hospital in India *Parul Singla, Anuj Anand Parkash, Jayshree Bhattacharjee*	To examine the rates of error occurrence throughout the testing cycle and implement a quality improvement plan aimed at delivering accurate results.	Out of all laboratory problems, up to 61% are associated with the preanalytical phase in the lab. Out of this, 33% of the errors are associated with the test request forms, 18% errors with sample collection in glass vials, and 3% errors associated with sample processing in the laboratory.
9. Preanalytical Errors and their Impact on Tests in Clinical Laboratory Practice *Sumera Naz, Arshad Mumtaz, Agha Sadaruddin*	To maintain comprehensive records of errors at every stage of analysis and develop effective strategies to prevent their occurrence in the future, ultimately working towards eliminating such errors from the laboratory.	In conclusion, it is crucial to embrace quality control measures, not only in analytical processes but also in all phases of the diagnostic process. Regular appraisals, audits, and a comprehensive approach to quality assurance are essential to protect patient interests and ensure the delivery of high-quality services.
10. Laboratory errors: How to improve pre- and post-analytical phases? *Mario Plebani*	To improve pre- and post-analytical phases	The key to ensuring a more sophisticated control of laboratory processes is a more effective integration between automation and information management. This integration allows for better coordination and management of laboratory operations.

3. Methodology:

The methodology employed in this study consisted of a combination of descriptive analysis and retrospective study with the help of data extracted from the internal system of the laboratories. It also employed observational study into the mix. The aim was to comprehensively examine and analyze various aspects related to the research topic.

The LIMS system, also called Laboratory Information Management System was used for retrospective study along with the descriptive analysis of various research articles. Along with this observational study was also implemented to get a more comprehensive idea regarding real-time management in the pre-analytics aspect.

By gathering the data in one place and analyzing it, the full concept of what actually pertain pre-analytics was acknowledged. Through this combination visualization of what, why, how questions were answered. For this to happen, it had to be measured that the points considered during our study were universal in all laboratory pre-analytical aspects. Hence, extensive and exhaustive literature review was done to identify key factors and defining these variables precisely.

The Laboratory Information Management System, which held useful information on elements including accessioning delays, test turnaround time (TAT), and sample requirements, was the main source of quantitative data for the retrospective analysis. For subsequent examination, the gathered data was safely kept in a database. The analysis was done using excel.

The LIMS served as the study's main data source because it had a lot of information that was useful for the given research. The LIMS reported provided information such as test names, type of samples required for these tests, department concerned, TAT of tests, personnel assigned, etc. To make sure that the system was functioning properly, it was regularly cross-checked with the physical registers that were maintained by the accessioning team as well as the respective

department. Along with this, strict confidentiality was maintained so as to not compromise patient data. Everything was anonymized.

A mixed method approach was used for the study so as to collude important facts and data points together. This helped in establishing a solid structure to initiate further proceedings and to analyze the past discrepancies.

The use of a combination of descriptive, observational and LIMS study helped in putting together a comprehensive review.

4. Results:

After the review, the fact was established that there are considerable issues in the process flows and training of the personnel.

There were also issues regarding the management of samples, like there were no standard ways for collecting, handling, and moving samples. Because different labs have different rules, the quality and condition of the samples can be different, and that might make the test results wrong. Also, the study showed that the people working in the labs didn't have enough training or knowledge about the right ways to handle samples. This made it even harder to keep the samples in good condition.

Apart from problems with managing samples, the study found issues with how the staff handled things before analyzing them. The results showed that the people in the lab didn't have clear instructions about who should do what when collecting and processing samples. This caused confusion and mistakes in assigning tasks, which made the overall process less efficient. Additionally, the study highlighted the importance of better communication and teamwork between lab workers and other healthcare professionals involved in collecting samples. When they didn't coordinate well, it often caused delays, misunderstandings, and possible errors in identifying and recording the samples.

These are the few gaps that were detected during the corresponding study. However, these few gaps created the most part of the reason for the pre-analytic errors. That said, some solutions that could be implemented are:

Firstly, the development and implementation of standardized protocols for sample collection, handling, and transportation are crucial to maintain sample integrity and consistency across laboratory units.
Training programs should be established to educate laboratory personnel on these standardized procedures and emphasize the importance of proper sample handling techniques.

Regarding this the following draft for Standard Operating Procedure for Sample Acceptance and Rejection was created:

***Purpose*:** This is about making sure that patient samples are received and processed correctly.
***Objective*:** This procedure explains the rules for deciding whether to accept or reject a sample.
***Responsibilities*:**
- The Quality Manager oversees creating policies for sample rejection and acceptance criteria. These policies need to be approved by the Laboratory Director.
- The laboratory staff is responsible for following the policies for sample rejection and acceptance.

Specimens:
- Histopathology Specimens (FFPE blocks, Slides, Tissues in Formalin)
- Molecular Specimens (Blood in PaxGene Tubes, Plasma, FFPE)

Material:
- Hand Glove
- Mask
- Lab Coat
-Closed shoes/Shoe covers

Operating mode:
Initial tasks when a patient sample is received:

1. Record the date and time when the sample arrived.
2. Check that the patient's identification on the TRF matches the identification on the sample.
3. Review the test request to make sure the type of sample collected is suitable for the test.
4. Enter a record of the received sample in the LIMS system in the accession room.
5. The Blood specimen in Paxgene (light blue colored cap), EDTA (Purple colored cap) should be received with Gel Packs maintaining a temperature of less than >4 degrees Celsius.
Plasma should be received in dry ice.
FFPE blocks (should be embedded properly in the paraffin wax), slides & Tissues in Formalin should be received at room temperature packed in proper containers.
All the samples received should be labelled the same as the number on the histopathology reports.
Note: The sample accessioning team should receive the samples. Samples should not be opened at the front desk.

Information required on the test request form (TRF):

The test request form should include the following information:
- Complete patient identification (full name, age, gender, contact information)
- Clear description of the type of sample.
- Date and, if applicable, time of collection of samples.
- Tests requested.
- Diagnosis or description of the clinical investigation.
- Name and contact information of the requesting doctor & hospital.

Criteria for rejecting a sample/putting a sample on hold due to Non-Compliance to the following criteria:

1. Samples without labels or with incorrect labels.
2. Leaky containers: If the outside of the container is contaminated with the sample or the container is leaking, a new sample should be requested.
3. Inappropriate sample sources: Samples that don't match the required type for the test are unacceptable. For example, getting a sample for a test which we do not perform, or receiving a different sample than what is mentioned in reports.

4. Delayed transport time and sample processing: Ideally, blood samples should be less than 2 days old when received in a PaxGene tube(light blue cap) & should be less than 3 hours old when received in EDTA tube (purple colored cap). If the time between sample collection and receiving is too long for a valid test to be performed, a new sample should be requested. If a sample is received after a long delay but is not rejected, it should be documented along with the time elapsed since collection.
5. Incorrect papers along with the sample. Mismatch between the sample and the TRF.

Actions to take when samples are rejected:
- If the unacceptable sample can be replaced, inform the requesting hospital/doctor, document the reason for rejection, and request another sample.
- Do not discard the sample until the patient's doctor confirms that another sample can be collected. If the patient has already started chemotherapy or if a repeat sample cannot be collected, this must be documented.
- If a repeat sample is not available, document the issue and proceed with the test if possible.
-If a sample is accessioned, but is rejected after investigating the tumor content, contact with the doctor/hospital is required for re-sampling.

Furthermore, defining clear roles and responsibilities among laboratory staff involved in the pre-analytical phase is essential to streamline workflows and minimize errors. This can be achieved through the establishment of documented protocols and regular training sessions to ensure all personnel are aware of their specific duties and expectations. Improving communication channels and fostering collaboration between laboratory staff and other healthcare professionals can enhance the overall efficiency of the pre-analytical phase.

The following process flow was established:

a. Sample Collection: This is done by the respective hospitals. Recently, the organization has started to take help of third-party phlebotomists for inaccessible regions.

b. Sample Transportation: Proper procedures for sample receiving were reported to be followed by the majority of laboratory staff, as revealed by the verbal responses. However, challenges in identifying the correct collection site, leading to pauses in processes, were reported by some lab technicians. In such situations, they would wait for confirmation from the hospital from which the sample was received. The common steps involved in sample collection are illustrated in Diagram 1.

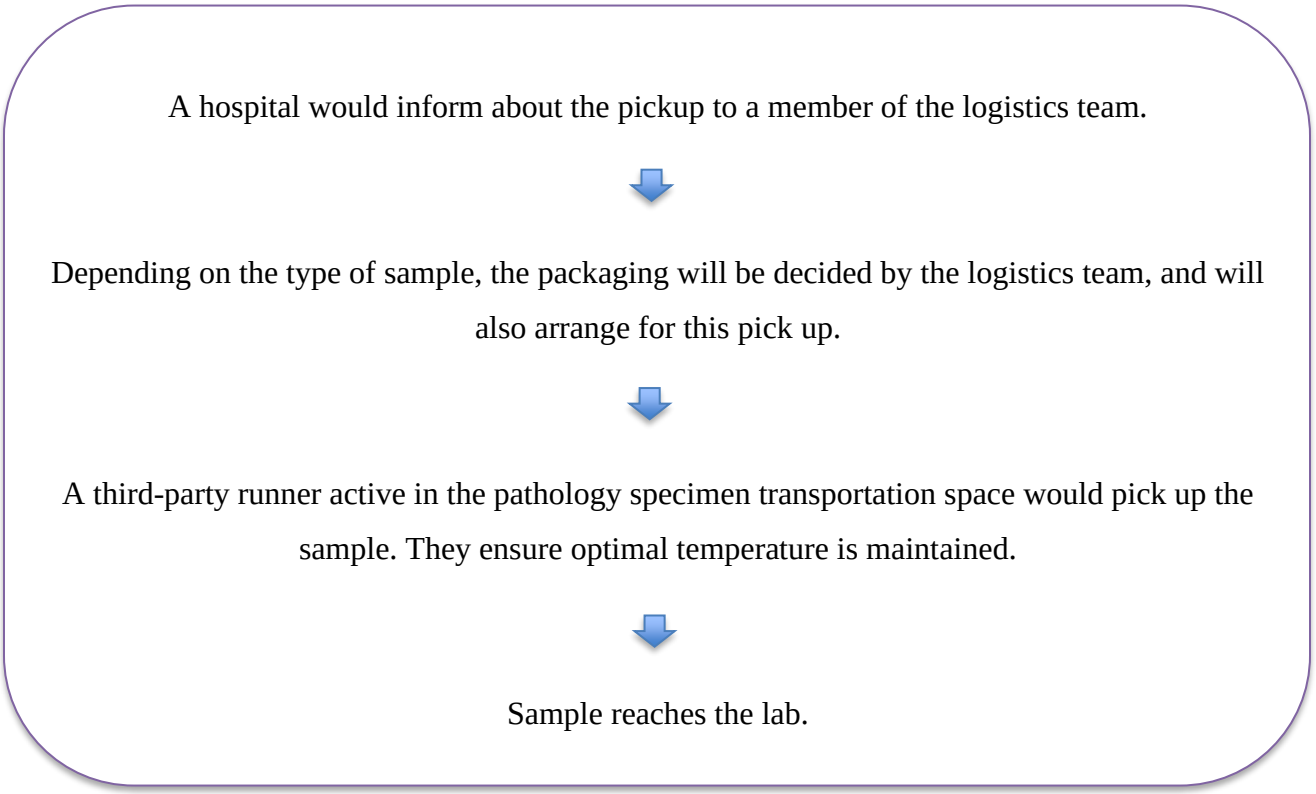


Figure 4.1: The typical sample transportation process is outlined.

c. Sample Processing: Variations in sample processing practices across different laboratories were indicated by the secondary research done. Some laboratories reported the implementation of automated systems for sample processing, improving efficiency and reducing errors. In our lab, there exists an internal

system for easy processing . The sample processing workflow is depicted in Figure 3.

Pre-Analytics (Sample Received)

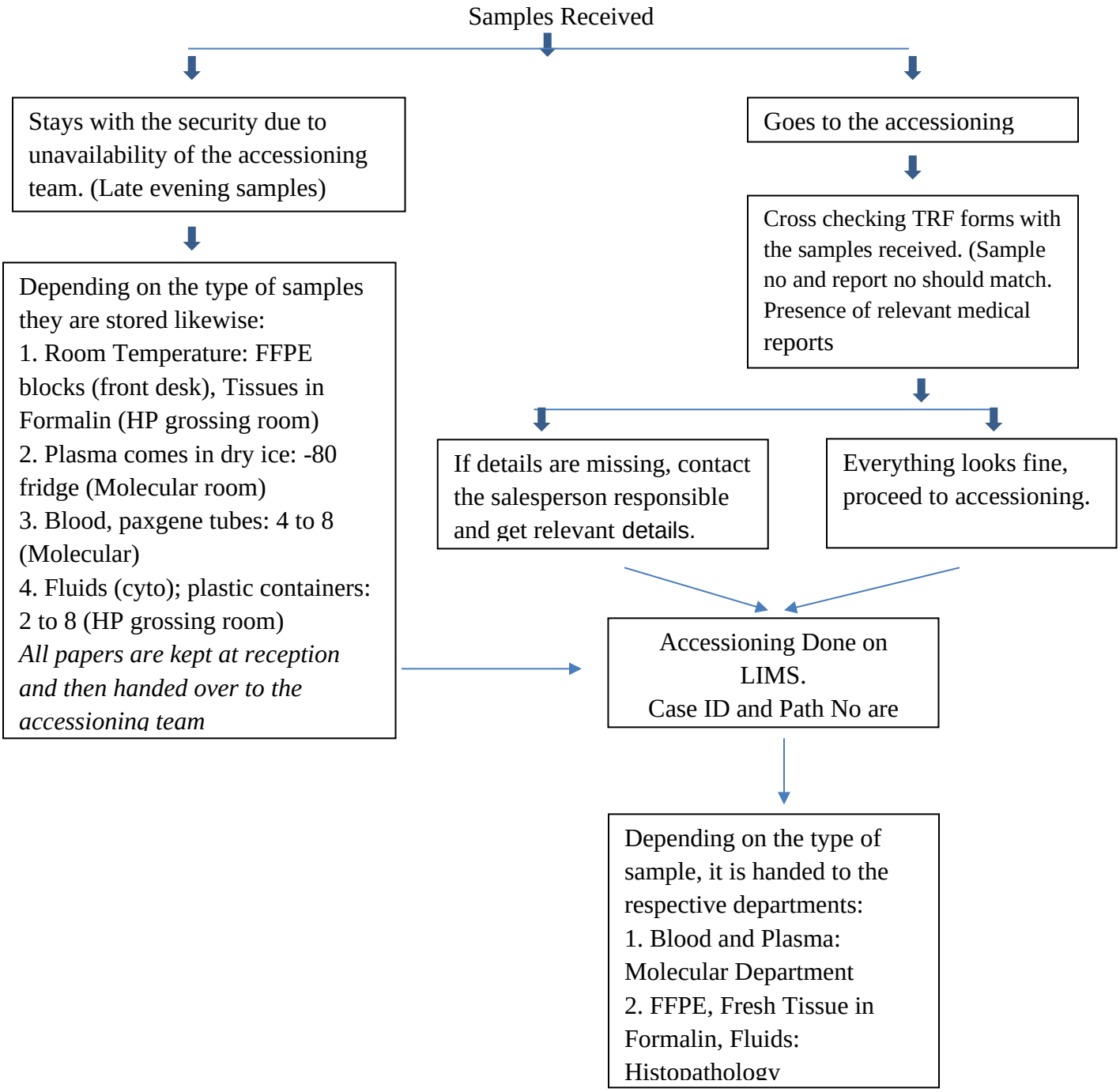


Figure 4.2: The sample processing workflow is depicted.

d. Sample Storage: The secondary research findings showed that many laboratories had proper storage facilities, including temperature-controlled environments. However, concerns about sample organization were reported because of the new nature of our laboratory.

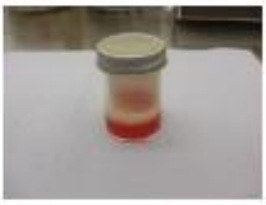
Sr no	Type of Sample	Temperature of Storage	Location	Reference Image
1	FFPE blocks, Slides	Room Temperature	Front desk	
2	Tissues in Formalin	Room Temperature	HP grossing room	
3	Separated Plasma (comes in dry ice)	-80 Fridge	Molecular	
4	Blood (PaxGene tubes, comes with a light blue cap)	4 to 8 degrees	Molecular	
5	Fluids (usually comes in plastic containers)	4 to 8 degrees	HP grossing room	

Figure 4.3: The sample storage practices of the organization

e. Challenges in Pre-analytics: Valuable insights into the challenges faced in pre-analytics were realized. Inadequate training, lack of standardized protocols, and resource constraints were commonly mentioned as significant challenges. The need for continuous education and quality improvement initiatives to overcome these hurdles were emphasized.

Just to visualize these errors following is the data on tests cancelled:

Out of total 269 samples received, 84 tests, which is 31% of tests were cancelled.

Table 4.1 : Type of Sample Rejected

Count of Specimen Type	**Specimen Type**			
Lab Department	**Block**	**Blood**	**Tissue**	**Grand Total**
Histopathology	22		22	44
Molecular	12	28		40
Grand Total	**34**	**28**	**22**	**84**

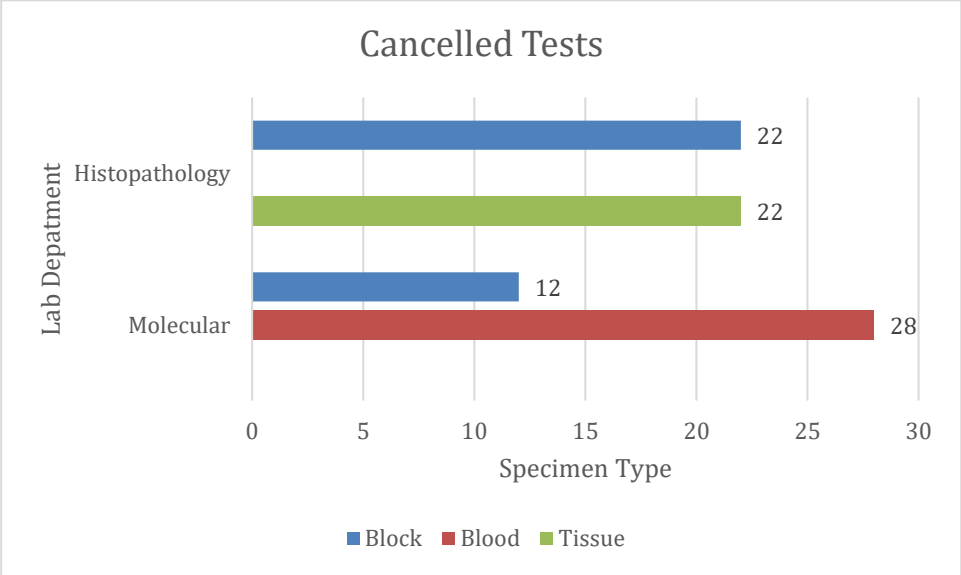


Figure 4.4: Department wise Cancelled Tests

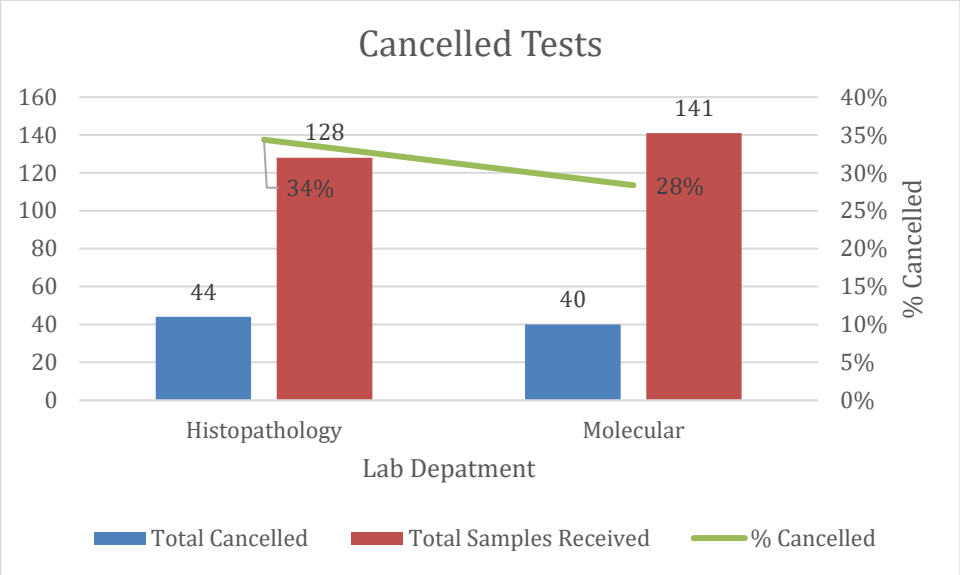


Figure 4.5: Total Cancelled Tests

The main reasons for the cancelled tests were:

1. Unlabeled samples:
2. Inadequate volume
3. Inadequate content
4. Inappropriate samples
5. Discrepancy in Test Request forms

Table 4.2: Reasons of Rejection of Samples

Reason Rejected	**Quantity**
Unlabeled samples:	32
Inadequate volume (blood)	18
Inadequate content (FFPE)	13
Inappropriate samples	4
Discrepancy in TRF	15
Other	1

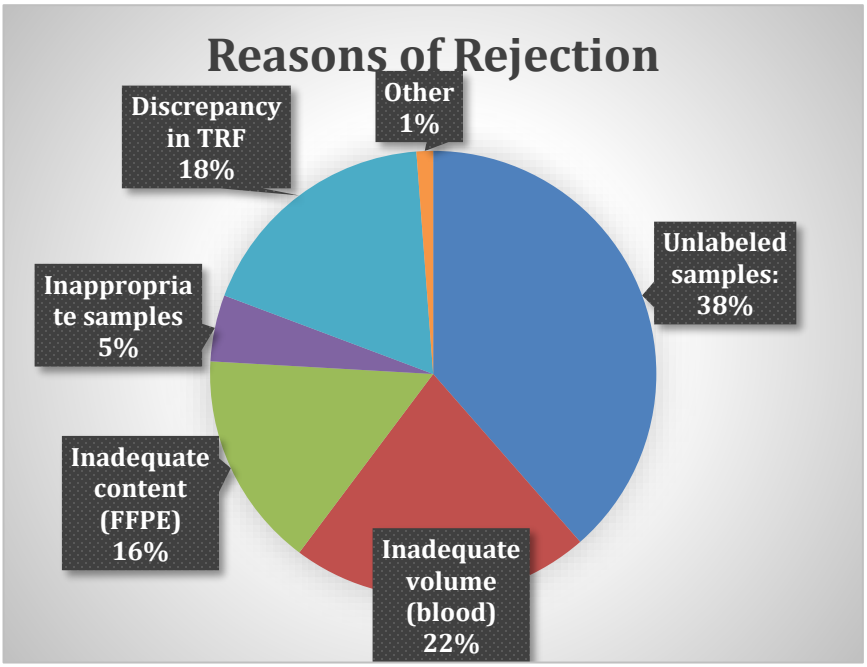


Figure 4.6: Reason of Rejection of Samples

Need for Standardization: The need for standardized guidelines and protocols to ensure consistent practices across laboratories was expressed by participants. The importance of regulatory bodies and professional organizations in providing clear guidelines and overseeing compliance to enhance pre-analytics was emphasized.

In conclusion, the study findings highlight significant gaps in the current pre-analytical system, specifically related to sample management and personnel practices. Addressing these gaps through the implementation of standardized protocols, training programs, and improved communication can lead to a more robust and reliable pre-analytical phase, ultimately enhancing the accuracy and quality of laboratory test results.

5. **Discussion**

The goal of the discussion part is to offer a thorough analysis and interpretation of the findings from the investigation into pre-analytics in laboratory settings. It examines the results' ramifications, points out significant trends, and evaluates their importance in relation to enhancing pre-analytical procedures. The ensuing topics are covered:

1. The significance of standardization: The study demonstrated the value of standardizing pre-analytics procedures in lab settings. Consistency in practice, reduced error rates, and more reliable results are all benefits of standardization. The study's problems can be addressed, and the overall quality of laboratory testing can be improved by implementing standardized processes for sample collection, transportation, processing, and storage.

2. Education and Training: The results highlight the necessity for thorough training programs for laboratory employees who do pre-analytics. A major issue that contributes to mistakes and inconsistent practices is inadequate training. Creating organized training programs and offering ongoing education can give laboratory staff the abilities and information needed to successfully complete pre-analytical duties.

3. Quality Control Procedures: The study emphasizes the value of putting strong quality control procedures in place before performing pre-analytics. To guarantee accurate and trustworthy findings, regular equipment maintenance, calibration tests, and adherence to quality assurance requirements are essential. To find and stop errors at different pre-analytical phases, quality control should be a fundamental component of laboratory procedures.

4. Technological Developments: Pre-analytics technology integration has the potential to transform laboratory procedures. Robotics, automated technologies, and barcode tracking can help identify samples more accurately while lowering human error and increasing productivity. To simplify pre-analytical procedures, laboratories ought to think about using such technology improvements.

5.Resource Constraints: In pre-analytics, resource limitations became a key problem. It may be difficult for laboratories with limited resources and facilities to implement best practices. To provide the best pre-analytics, it is essential for policymakers and healthcare organizations to allot sufficient funds to support laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and training requirements.

6. Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing: The study's results highlight the value of laboratory collaboration and knowledge sharing. Collectively, sharing best practices, life lessons, and experiences can benefit pre-analytics. Network building, workshop planning, and the creation of communication and information exchange platforms are examples of collaborative endeavors.

7.Patient Safety and Result Accuracy: The study demonstrates how pre-analytics directly affect patient safety and result accuracy. Pre-analytical processes that contain errors or inconsistencies might result in incorrect diagnoses, delayed therapy, and subpar patient care. To provide accurate and reliable laboratory results that contribute to better patient outcomes, pre-analytics practices must be enhanced.

8. Regulatory Oversight: Regulatory entities and professional associations are crucial in setting norms and ensuring that pre-analytics standards are being followed. The results highlight the significance of these organizations in formulating and enforcing laws that address pre-analytical issues, guarantee adherence to best practices, and support quality assurance in laboratory settings.

Valuable information regarding the challenges, desirable practices, and potential for process advancement is provided by the study on pre-analytics in lab settings. To enhance pre-analytics practices, it is essential to prioritize standardization, training, quality control, technical advancements, resource allocation, collaboration, and regulatory oversight. These initiatives will lead to increased patient security, more accurate test results, and better healthcare outcomes.

6. **Conclusion**:

Pre-analytics in laboratory settings has been the subject of study that has shown the practices, difficulties, and prospective areas for improvement in this important part of the total testing process. Given that, the study has offered helpful insights into the many pre-analytical processes, including but not limited to sample collection, transportation, processing, and storage, through a mixed-methods approach combining descriptive and observational retrospective analysis.

The results highlight the need of standardizing pre-analytics procedures. Standardized procedures and rules promote reliability, reduce mistakes, and maintain consistency. To improve the caliber of their pre-analytical procedures, labs should work to adopt and apply these standardized practices.

In order to address the problems discovered in pre-analytics, training and education is an important point to address. Inadequate training can lead to errors and inconsistent practices. Pre-analytics can be optimized through consistent and continuous trainings and reinforcing standardized practices.

Technological developments present promising chances to enhance pre-analytics. Automation, robotics, and barcode tracking can be combined to increase productivity, decrease human error, and simplify pre-analytical procedures. To improve their operations, laboratories should investigate implementing these technological developments.

Resource limitations were noted as a difficulty in pre-analytics. It may be difficult for laboratories with limited resources and facilities to implement best practices. To fulfil the needs of laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and training, adequate resource allocation is required. Especially in terms of personnel, as overworking employees lead to increased human error.

Pre-analytics have improved as a result of laboratory collaboration and knowledge sharing. Collective progress can be facilitated through exchanging best practices, experiences, and lessons learnt. Collaboration and knowledge sharing can be facilitated through establishing

networks, holding workshops, and developing venues for communication and information exchange.

The study accentuated how pre-analytics directly affect patient safety and test result accuracy. Pre-analytical processes that contain errors or inconsistencies run the risk of leading to inaccurate diagnoses and subpar patient treatment. To provide accurate and reliable laboratory results that contribute to better patient outcomes, pre-analytics practices must be enhanced. Regulation is essential for upholding and advancing pre-analytics norms. The upper management should focus on the errors in pre-analytics by doing audits annually or semiannually.

In conclusion, the research on pre-analytics in laboratory settings has shed important light on current procedures, difficulties, and areas for development. To maximize pre-analytics, laboratories should prioritize standardization, training, quality control, technical improvements, resource allocation, collaboration, and regulatory monitoring. These actions will result in more accurate laboratory findings, more patient security, and improved healthcare outcomes. Collaboration among laboratories, healthcare institutions, and policymakers is essential if pre-analytics procedures are to be improved and the greatest levels of testing quality are to be guaranteed.

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