

**College of American Pathologists
Laboratory Accreditation Program**

LAP's Requirements when a PT Result is Linked to an Exception Reason Codes

The College uses exception reason codes that signify the proficiency testing (PT) for an analyte has not been graded (PT Providers other than the College use a coding process that is similar). The exception reason code is located on the evaluation report in brackets to the right of the result. The laboratory must identify all of the analytes with an exception reason code* and investigate the acceptability of its performance with the same rigor as if it were an unacceptable performance. When an exception reason code is present on the laboratory's evaluation, the laboratory must review the all-participant statistics for any explanatory information. The actions required for the following codes include but are not limited to:

Codes	Exception Reason Code Description	Action Required
11	Unable to analyze	Document why the specimens were not analyzed (e.g., instrument not functioning or reagents not available). Perform and document alternative PT for the period that commercial PT was not tested to the same level and extent that would have been tested.
20	No appropriate target/response; cannot be graded	Document that the laboratory compared its results to the modal (most common) result. Perform and document the corrective action if required.
21	Specimen Problem	Document that the laboratory has reviewed the proper peer group statistics supplied by the PT Provider. Perform and document alternative PT for the period that commercial PT was not tested to the same level and extent that would have been tested.
22	Result is outside the method/instrument reportable range	Document the comparison of results to the proper peer group statistics and peer group information supplied by the PT Provider. Perform and document the corrective action if required.
24	Incorrect response due to failure to provide a valid response code	Document the laboratory's self-evaluation against the proper peer group statistics supplied by the PT Provider. Perform and document the corrective action of any unacceptable results. Document corrective action to prevent future failures.
25	Inappropriate use of antimicrobial	Document the investigation of the result as if they were unacceptable and review the proper peer group statistics to gain knowledge of the reason your response is not appropriate.
26	Educational Challenge	Response to the CAP is not required. Laboratory should document its review.
27	Lack of participant or referee consensus	Document that the laboratory compared its results to the modal (most common) result. Perform and document corrective action if required
28	Response qualified with a greater than or less than sign; -unable to quantitate	Document the laboratory's self-evaluation against the proper peer group statistics supplied by the PT Provider. Perform and document corrective action, if appropriate.
30	Scientific Committee Decision	Document that the laboratory has reviewed the proper peer group statistics supplied by the PT Provider.
33	Specimen determined to be unsatisfactory after contacting the CAP	Document that the laboratory has contacted the CAP and no replacements specimens were available. Perform and document alternative PT for the period that commercial PT was not tested to the same level and extent that would have been tested.
40	Results for this kit were not received	Document why results were not received, corrective action to prevent recurrence and the laboratory's self-evaluation of the results by comparing results to the proper peer group statistics supplied by the PT Provider.
41	Results for this kit were received past the evaluation cut-off date	
42	No credit assigned due to absence of response.	The Participant Summary booklet mailed with the proficiency testing evaluation indicates which tests are graded (see evaluation criteria) and which tests are Not Evaluated/Educational. Updates to grading will also be noted. If a test is educational, the laboratory is not penalized for leaving a result(s) blank. The code 42 that appears on the evaluation is not a penalty.

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		<i>If a test is graded (regulated and non-regulated analytes) and your laboratory performs that test, results cannot be left blank. The laboratory is required to submit results for all challenges within that test or use an appropriate exception code or indicate test not performed/not applicable/not indicated. Exceptions may be noted in the Kit Instructions and/or the Result Form. Document corrective actions to prevent future failures.</i>
44	This drug is not included in our test menu. Use of this code counts as a correct response.	Verification that the drug is not tested on patient samples and document to ensure proper future reporting.
77	Improper use of the exception code for this mailing	Document the identification of the correct code to use for future mailings.
91	There was an insufficient number of contributing challenges to establish a composite grade	Document the investigation of the result as if it were an unacceptable result. Perform and document the corrective action if required.
* 35, 43, 88, 92	Various codes	No action required by the LAP.