

## **Chemistry Department**

The clinical chemistry department of any laboratory performs analytical testing on patient specimens. Such specimens may present in the form of serum, plasma, whole blood, cerebrospinal fluid, urine and a host of body fluids.

Common tests performed in the Chemistry department include electrolytes (e.g. sodium or potassium), cardiac markers to rule out a heart attack , liver function tests, kidney function tests , drug screening (both prescription and drugs of abuse) and others.

Any methodology or analytical system utilized by a laboratory is subject to strict standardization and ongoing assessment through the use of quality control sampling and external proficiency testing. Quality control material is designed to mimic the patient specimen and is tested daily at levels reflecting clinically normal, abnormal low and abnormal high values. This will allow accurate reporting of patient results.