

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I request testing?

All external clients should contact the lab director prior to initiating service (erikson@ohsu.edu). To request service, download and fill out the Assay Request Form on the Services page. Fill out the areas in purple (external clients please ignore OHSU FAID and FAID Contact), enter hormones to be tested in the yellow boxes (add more columns if necessary), and enter sample information in the spreadsheet section. Email the completed form to endoreq@ohsu.edu. An editable electronic form in Excel format is required for all requests.

2. How do I pay for testing?

ONPRC/OHSU clients must provide an ALIAS when the assay request is submitted. External clients may pay using a Purchase Order, check or credit card. Billing is submitted to the ONPRC business office at the end of month in which your testing is performed. An invoice will then be sent which can be used for payment. A Purchase Order is preferred and should be submitted prior to testing.

3. How do I request a quote for testing?

Please contact the lab director (erikson@ohsu.edu) to request a quote. You will be asked to provide the hormone(s), species, and sample type to be tested along with the number of samples to be assayed.

4. How will I receive my results?

Data will be entered into the assay request form and returned by email. We will indicate units in the grey cells below the yellow cells where hormones are listed.

5. When will I receive my results?

The table below indicates approximate turnaround times for results on each of our platforms. These times can be affected by the number of samples and number of hormones to be tested, how many requests we have in our assay queue, availability of assay kits or reagents, and laboratory staffing due to illness or vacation. Please contact the lab director for information related to your request.

Platform	Estimated Turnaround Time
Roche Automatic Immunoassay	2-4 weeks
Shimadzu Nexera-LCMS-8050 LC-MS/MS	12-16 weeks
Milliplex LX-200 Luminex	2-4 weeks
ELISA/RIA	2-4 weeks
Direct Iodination RIA	4-6 weeks

6. What testing is available through the ETC?

Please see our assay menu on the Services page. We currently offer over 130 unique assays on 6 different assay platforms. NHP and human samples will often utilize either the Roche cobas e411 Automatic Immunoassay or Shimadzu Nexera-LCMS-8050 LC-MS/MS. Rodents and other species typically utilize commercial immunoassay or LC-MS/MS. Please contact the lab director to discuss which platform is appropriate for your testing needs.

7. Which species can be tested in the ETC?

While most of our testing is done on NHP or human samples, we have performed assays on many different species, including rodents, fish, reptiles, livestock, and zoo animals. Assay availability varies by species; contact the lab director for more information.

8. How much will testing cost?

Rates are provided on the Services page. Click the ETC Assays and Rates link to download.

9. How much sample volume do I need to send?

Volumes required for single determinations are listed in the ETC Assays and Rates document on the Services page. Automatic immunoassays require 200 µl of volume in addition to the prescribed volume for each test in order for the instrument to properly operate. It is helpful to add an additional 10-25 µl per sample to allow for pipetting.

10. How should I ship my samples?

We recommend shipping samples with FedEx. Please ship the samples frozen on dry ice, overnight for morning delivery to:

Dr. David Erikson
ONPRC
Endocrine Lab
505 NW 185th Ave
Beaverton, OR 97006

Please notify us of your intent to ship so we can be ready to receive the samples. Do not ship later than Wednesday in a given week. We do not staff the lab on weekends and if the shipment is delayed, it will arrive on the following Monday, jeopardizing the stability of the samples.

Samples should be placed in a fiberboard box with a removable insert or in a plastic box with a permanent insert. All boxes should be clearly labeled on the top and front. Please include contact information with the shipment.

11. What tubes should I use for my samples?

We generally do not have a requirement for the types of tubes we accept. However, for testing on our Roche automatic immunoassay we do require that all samples be submitted in free-standing 1.5 ml screw cap vials (e.g., Fisherbrand # 02-681-338 for tubes and #02-681-358 for caps; vials and caps are ordered separately).

12. Can I have my testing prioritized (rushed) by paying more?

We do not offer a rush service. If you are working on a tight deadline, please plan the testing request accordingly. It is also helpful to contact us to let us know you are working with a deadline and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

13. For papers, abstracts or grant proposals, how do I know which method was used for my samples?

When preparing a paper or abstract, please contact us—we will gladly prepare a methods section for this purpose. For grants, the laboratory director can provide letters of support and information for budget preparation.

14. What happens to the samples after testing is completed?

We keep samples for up to 1 year in the event re-testing is needed. If you would like the samples returned, please let us know and we can arrange this service.

15. How do I acknowledge the ETC?

For any manuscripts and scientific oral or poster presentations utilizing data obtained from ETC assay services, please kindly acknowledge the ETC:

"The Endocrine Technologies Core (ETC) at the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) is supported by NIH Grant P51OD011092 awarded to ONPRC."

It is important to acknowledge our Core in your work, as the impact of Core labs is routinely assessed by the number of publications linked to the lab. We thank you for using our lab to help with your assay needs, and look forward to many more years of supporting your research.

16. Where do I drop off samples?

ONPRC clients can drop off samples in Research 029, -20C freezer, top shelf. Please label the front and top of the box clearly with the investigator name and date. For -80C drop off, please make arrangements with the ETC. Clients from other OHSU campuses can either send samples through the inter-campus courier or deliver them in person to our lab. Please place samples in a fiberboard box with a removable insert or in a plastic box with a permanent insert. All boxes should be clearly labeled on the top and front with the investigator name and date.

17. I noticed you don't have the assay I need. Can you provide an assay for my samples?

Maybe! Please contact the lab director to discuss your needs and we will do our best to provide an assay for your project.

18. My Luminex analyzer or ELISA plate reader broke. Can I use yours to read my plate?

Yes! We are happy to assist ONPRC and OHSU investigators who need to read a plate on either our Luminex instrument or our ELISA plate reader. Please contact us at endoreq@ohsu.edu for availability.

19. How do I submit samples for STAT testing?

We offer daily STAT testing of estradiol, progesterone, and testosterone in NHP and human serum and plasma samples for ONPRC and OHSU investigators. This is referred to as our "Daily E&P" program. To enroll, please contact us at endoreq@ohsu.edu or 503-346-5066.

Is your question not included here? Please contact us at endoreq@ohsu.edu or 503-346-5066.