

Gyn cytology turnaround time, 2000-2010

Goal/Benchmark:

Average turnaround 7 days or less; essentially all cases signed out within 10 days.

Significance:

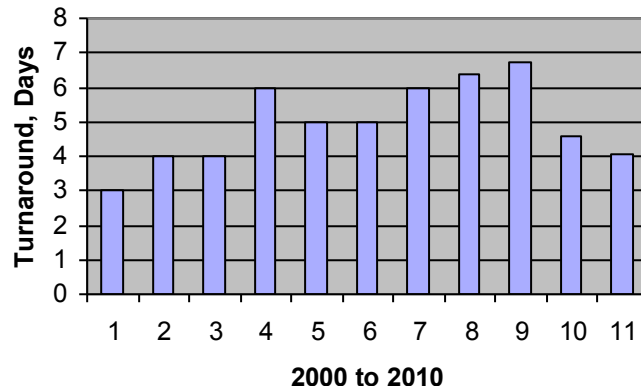
As a routine screening test, turnaround time expectations are less stringent for Pap smears than for surgical pathology or non-gyn cytology. However, if follow-up human papilloma virus DNA testing is desired on the Pap specimen, a three-week window of opportunity exists. Average turnaround must be short enough that essentially all cases will be completed within this window.

In 2006, our clients requested that Pap results be “held” until HPV test results become available. This has had the effect of slightly prolonging TAT.

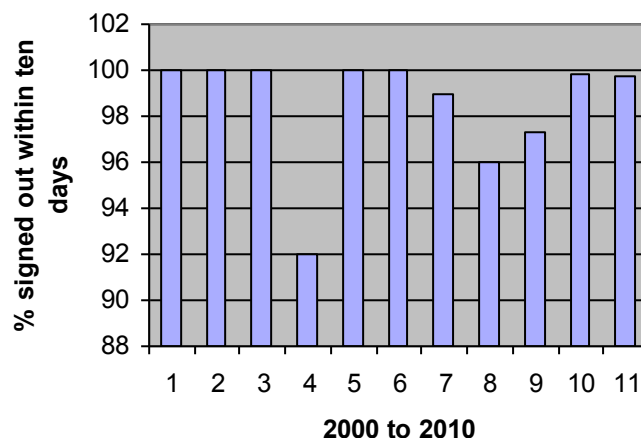
Action Plan/Follow-up:

Turnaround is monitored on a monthly basis. In late 2003 (see charts) a problem developed due to increased workload, leading to unacceptable increases in TAT, which in a few instances caused Pap specimens to out-date before HPV DNA testing could be done. In January of 2004, a “moonlighting” cytotechnologist was hired on weekends to help deal with the workload, and TAT has since returned to and remained at acceptable levels.

Average Turnaround, Days



% Gyn Cytology Signed Out Within 10 Days



Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Avg TAT	3	4	4	6	5	5	6	6.4	6.7	4.6	4.1
% in 10 d.	100	100	100	92	100	100	99	96	97.3	99.8	99.7

