



# Laboratory-Developed Tests

## The FDA's Proposed Rule and Potential Clinical Laboratory Impact

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# Introduction

## ARUP Laboratories

ARUP is a nonprofit clinical laboratory enterprise of the University of Utah Department of Pathology



# October 3, 2023

## FDA Published a Proposed Rule to Regulate Laboratory Developed Tests as Medical Devices

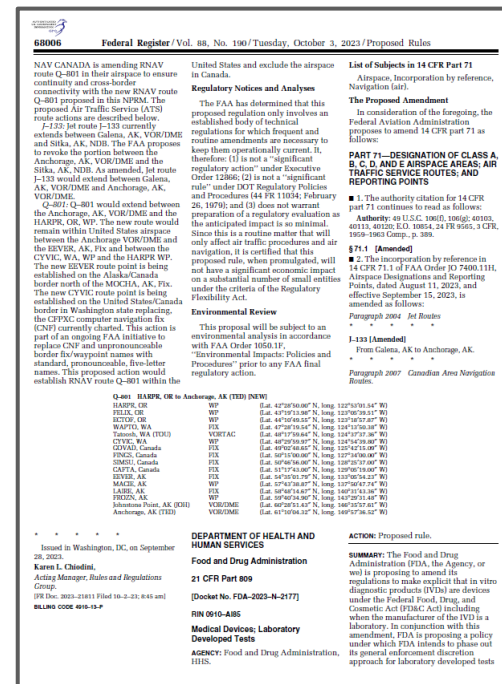
Public Announcement

Proposed Rule

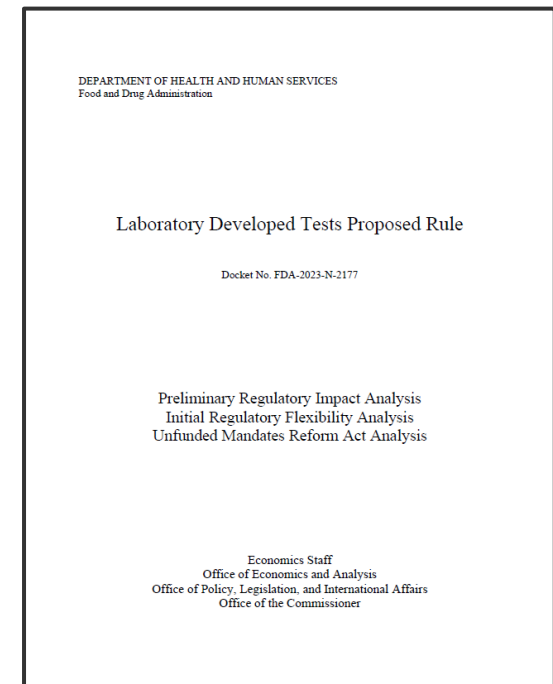
Regulatory Impact Analysis



The screenshot shows the FDA's public announcement page. At the top, there is a search bar and a menu icon. Below that, a section titled "IN THIS SECTION" contains a link for "Press Announcements". The main heading reads "FDA NEWS RELEASE" followed by "FDA Proposes Rule Aimed at Helping to Ensure Safety and Effectiveness of Laboratory Developed Tests". Below the heading are social media sharing options for Facebook, X, and Email. At the bottom, it states "For Immediate Release: September 29, 2023".



The screenshot shows the Federal Register entry for the proposed rule. It includes the title "21 CFR Part 809 [Docket No. FDA-2023-N-2177] Medical Device; Laboratory Developed Tests". The text describes the proposed rule's purpose to regulate laboratory developed tests (LDTs) as medical devices. It includes sections for "Regulatory Notices and Analysis", "Environmental Review", and "List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71". A table lists various airports and their coordinates. The document is dated October 3, 2023.



The screenshot shows the Regulatory Impact Analysis for the proposed rule. It is titled "Laboratory Developed Tests Proposed Rule" and is issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration. The document includes a docket number (FDA-2023-N-2177) and lists the analysis components: Preliminary Regulatory Impact Analysis, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and Unfunded Mandates Reform Act Analysis. It is prepared by the Office of Economics and Analysis, Office of Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs, Office of the Commissioner.

# Laboratory Developed Test (LDT)

“an [in vitro diagnostic] IVD that is intended for clinical use and designed, *manufactured*, and used within a single laboratory”

**This is not a legal definition**

[e.g. “home brew” test]

# Proposed Amendment

“We are proposing to amend...updating the definition of “in vitro diagnostic products” to make explicit that IVDs are devices under the FD&C Act including when ***the manufacturer of the IVD is a laboratory.***”

26,000 words of explanation and *proposed* role-out

Federal Register / Vol. 88, No. 190 / Tuesday, October 3, 2023, p.68017.

# FDA Proposed Rule

- Exercise enforcement over all essentially all LDTs
  - » Continued enforcement discretion over manual tests (“pre-1976 tests”), HLA, forensic (law enforcement), public health

- Proposed Stages

Many more rules and guidance documents would be required.

| Stage   | Action (Ending Enforcement Discretion Over)   | Time after Final Publication |
|---------|---|------------------------------|
| Stage 1 | Medical device reporting (MDR), correction, and removal requirements  | 1 year                       |
| Stage 2 | Registration, listing, labeling, investigational use requirements   | 2 years                      |
| Stage 3 | Quality systems requirements (e.g., purchasing controls, acceptance activities, CAPA, records requirements) | 3 years                      |
| Stage 4 | Pre-market review of high-risk IVDs   | 3.5 years                    |
| Stage 5 | Pre-market review of low and moderate risk IVDs   | 4 years                      |



# Current User Fees

| Application Type  | Standard Fee | Small Business Fee† |
|---|--------------|---------------------|
| 510(k)‡   | \$21,760     | \$5,440             |
| 513(g)  | \$6,528      | \$3,264             |
| PMA, PDP, PMR, BLA  | \$483,560    | \$120,890           |
| De Novo Classification Request  | \$145,068    | \$36,267            |
| Panel-track Supplement  | \$386,848    | \$96,712            |
| 180-Day Supplement  | \$72,534     | \$18,134            |
| Real-Time Supplement  | \$33,849     | \$8,462             |
| BLA Efficacy Supplement   | \$483,560    | \$120,890           |
| 30-Day Notice   | \$7,737      | \$3,869             |
| Annual Fee for Periodic Reporting on a Class III device (PMAs,PDPs, and PMRs) | \$16,925     | \$4,231             |

**Medium Risk**

**High Risk**

**Medium Risk (No Predicate)**

And "Change in Intended Use"

**Annual  
Establishment  
Registration Fee  
\$7,653**

# Medical Device Amendments of 1976

“to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [...] to provide for the safety and effectiveness of medical devices...”



President Gerald Ford

## Law

- Authorized FDA to regulate in vitro diagnostic devices
- Established Device Classes (risk based):

- Class I, General Controls (lowest risk)
- Class II, Performance Standard (moderate risk)
  - Subject to General and Special Controls
  - Premarket notification (**510k**) “*clearance*”
- Class III, Premarket Approval (highest risk); **PMA**; “*approval*”



# Medical Device Amendments

Law

(d) the term '**device**'...means an instrument,...**in vitro reagent**, or other similar or related article...., which is:

(2) intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other condition...

In Vitro Reagents Are Devices

LDTs Are Not Discussed

Neither in the law nor in prior Congressional hearings.



Law *only* applies to devices “**distributed through interstate commerce**”

**Commercial Distribution**

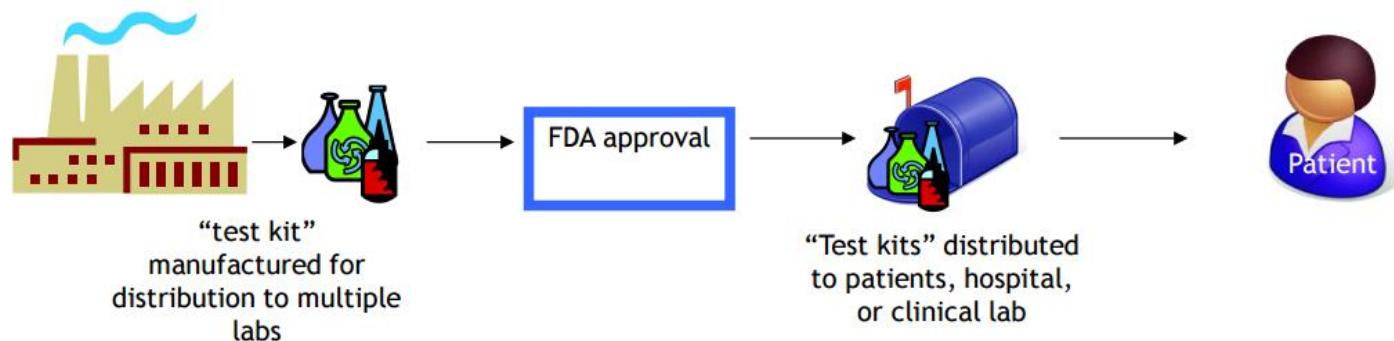
**Interstate Commerce**

# 1977-1992

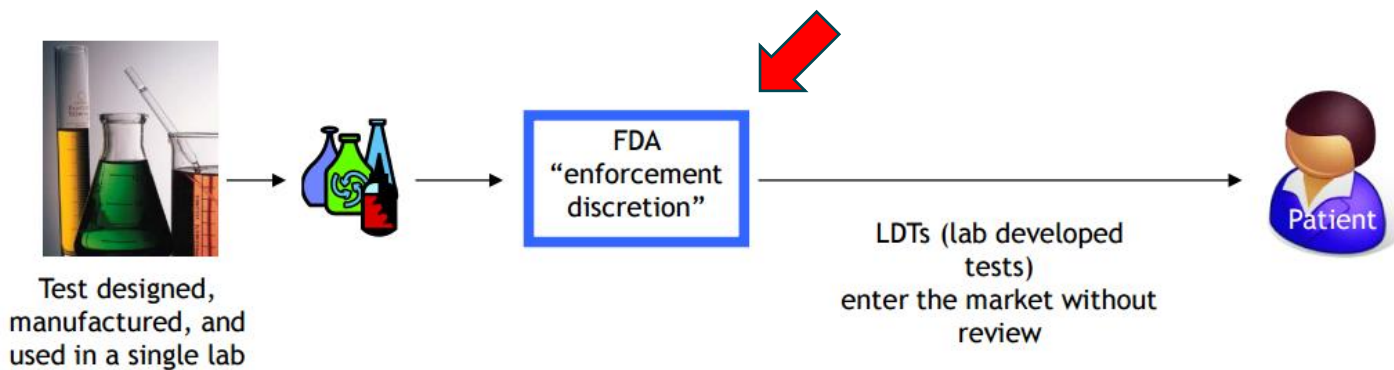
- For **16 years** after passage of the Medical Device Amendments, the **FDA did not claim any authority over LDTs**
- Two “pathways” for laboratory testing developed:
  - **Commercially Distributed Pathway**  
*(regulated by the FDA)*
  - **LDTs**  
*(regulated by CMS under CLIA)*

# Current Regulatory Reality

## 1) Commercially Distributed Test Pathway:



## 2) Lab Developed Test (LDT) Pathway:



Buy Someone Else's Kit  
**FDA**

Validate Your Own Test  
Perform In-house Only  
**CLIA**

# MDA “General Rule”

Law

“shall not impose requirements **unduly burdensome** to a device manufacturer, importer, or distributor taking into account his **cost of complying** with such requirements and the **need for the protection of the public health** and the **implementation of this Act.**”

## Concerns

Overestimated  
Purported Risk of LDTs

Ignoring Clinical  
Benefits of LDTs

Not Factoring Patient  
Impact from Loss of  
Testing

**Protection of  
Public Health**

**Cost of  
Complying**

## Concerns

Overestimating  
Financial Benefits to  
Society

Underestimating Costs  
to Patients and Health  
Systems

Compliance Costs  
Prohibitive for Most  
Clinical Laboratories

Medical Device Amendments of 1976.” (PL 94 –295, May 28, 1976) United States Statutes at Large, 90 (1976) pp. 539–83.  
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-90/pdf/STATUTE-90-Pg539.pdf>. Accessed 11/13/2023

# LDTs in Clinical Care

2021 Data, University of Utah Health

Study of all test orders in our health system.

|                         | Volume of Tests Ordered | Distinct Assays    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>FDA Assays</b>       | 2,831,489 (93.9%)       | 983 (50.3%)        |
| FDA                     | 2,807,104 (93.0%)       | 977 (50.0%)        |
| EUA                     | 24,385 (0.8%)           | 4 (0.2%)           |
| <b>LDT Assays</b>       | 116,583 (3.9%)          | <b>880</b> (45.0%) |
| LDT                     | 110,282 (3.7%)          | 831 (42.5%)        |
| Modified FDA            | 6,301 (0.2%)            | 49 (2.5%)          |
| <b>Standard Methods</b> | 68,856 (2.3%)           | 91 (4.7%)          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>3,016,928</b>        | <b>1,954</b>       |

Leveling the playing field?

Rychert J, Schmidt RL, Genzen JR. Laboratory-Developed Tests Account for a Small Minority of Tests Ordered in an Academic Hospital System. *AJCP*. 2023 Sep 1;160(3):297-302.

# LDTs in Clinical Care

2021 Data, University of Utah Health

## Laboratory-Developed Tests

| Test Name                      | Specimen | % LDT Volume |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Tacrolimus                     | WB       | 10.9%        |
| Cytomegalovirus, viral load    | P        | 4.5%         |
| Estradiol                      | S, P     | 3.9%         |
| Leukemia/lymph. phenotyping    | WB       | 3.8%         |
| Targeted drug profile          | U        | 2.9%         |
| CD4 lymphocyte subset          | WB       | 2.9%         |
| Vitamin B1                     | WB       | 2.8%         |
| Zinc                           | S, P     | 2.5%         |
| Copper                         | S, P     | 2.3%         |
| Epstein-Barr virus, viral load | S, P     | 2.2%         |

## Standard Tests

| Assay                            | Specimen | % Standard Volume |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Differential cell count (manual) | WB       | 37.6%             |
| Erythrocyte sedimentation rate   | WB       | 30.8%             |
| Urinalysis                       | U        | 10.4%             |
| Cell count                       | BF, CSF  | 7.4%              |
| Blood smear with interpretation  | WB       | 3.5%              |
| Gram Stain                       | BF, CSF  | 1.9%              |
| Ova and parasite exam            | Stool    | 1.9%              |
| Wet prep, vaginal                | G        | 1.1%              |

Rychert J, Schmidt RL, Genzen JR. Laboratory-Developed Tests Account for a Small Minority of Tests Ordered in an Academic Hospital System. *AJCP*. 2023 Sep 1;160(3):297-302.



# Theranos Paradox

# FDA



“LDTs”

“Running FDA-cleared assays off label with dilutions”

# CMS (CLIA)

+

# Investigative Journalism

“Stopped Theranos”

“Cleared a Theranos Test”

**Devices@FDA**  
● FDA Home ● Medical Devices ● Databases

1 records returned meeting your search criteria - *theranos*

| Device Name   | Company        | Date Approved | Device or Consumer Information/Instructions |
|---|----------------|---------------|---|
| <a href="#">Theranos Herpes Simplex Virus-1 IgG Assay</a> | THERANOS, INC. | Jul 02, 2015  | <a href="#">K143236</a>                     |

We welcome your [comments and feedback](#) about Devices@FDA.

FDA’s substantial equivalence decision is *still* in effect!

# Supreme Court Cases

**2022**

*West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*

Issue: **Major Questions Doctrine**

“Courts presume that Congress does not delegate to administration issues of major political or economic significance”

**Next  
Year**

*Loper Bright Enterprises et al. v. Raimondo*

Issue: Challenge to **Chevron Deference**

“Courts should defer to the agencies’ interpretations of a law if it is ambiguous”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Virginia\\_v.\\_EPA#:~:text=West%20Virginia%20v.%20Environmental%20Protection,emissions%20related%20to%20climate%20change.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Virginia_v._EPA#:~:text=West%20Virginia%20v.%20Environmental%20Protection,emissions%20related%20to%20climate%20change.)  
<https://rollcall.com/2023/05/01/supreme-court-to-decide-major-case-on-federal-rulemaking-power/>


# Public Comments

*Deadline – December 4, 2023*

## Medical Devices; Laboratory Developed Tests

A Proposed Rule by the Food and Drug Administration on 10/03/2023



 This document has a comment period that ends in 6 days. (12/04/2023)

[SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT](#)

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/03/2023-21662/medical-devices-laboratory-developed-tests>

**Google 3 Words: “Federal Register LDT”**

# Submitting Your Own Comments

- We **encourage** you to submit a public comment
- Your voice is incredibly important – you are the experts

**Remember: These are public, anyone can read them!**

## Guidance

- Share your personal opinions and experiences with laboratory testing and LDTs
- Share your opinion on the impact of the proposed rule to patient care
- Be professional

## **VERY IMPORTANT**

Please do **NOT**:

- Submit your comment “on behalf” of your organization
- Share any proprietary information (test volumes, financials, or test details)
- Share any PHI or otherwise sensitive information

# ARUP Public Comment

## Statutory Authority Over LDTs

- LDTs are Not Devices
- Labs are Not Manufacturers
- Interstate Commerce
- Commercial Distribution
- States are Not Persons
- Violation of MDA General Rule



## Regulatory Impact Analysis

- Flawed Calculations
- Overestimated Benefits
- Underestimated Costs



## General Concerns

- Patient Safety
- Practice of Medicine
- Logistical Challenges
- Test Modifications
- Academic Medical Centers
- Grandfathering



## **Public Comment Period Ends December 4<sup>th</sup>!**

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/03/2023-21662/medical-devices-laboratory-developed-tests>

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# **Questions and Discussion**

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## Public Comment Period Ends December 4<sup>th</sup>!

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/03/2023-21662/medical-devices-laboratory-developed-tests>

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**For more information go to:**  
**[aruplab.com/fda-ldt](https://aruplab.com/fda-ldt)**



*A nonprofit enterprise of the University of Utah and its Department of Pathology*

