

Understanding Your Cost-Per-Reportable Result

The metric that tells you the financial truth about your test menu

Article 8 of 22

8 min-minute read

15-25%

CPRR is typically higher than simple cost/test

40-60%

Gap for low-volume assays

QC+Cal

The hidden reagent consumers

Cost-per-test is a common metric but it can be misleading. The number that actually matters is cost-per-reportable-result (CPRR)—the true cost of producing one result that makes it onto a patient report.

1 Why Cost-Per-Test Understates Real Cost

Cost-per-test divides kit price by tests per kit. But you also run QC samples, calibrators, repeats for flagged results, and lose reagent to dead volume. None generate revenue but all consume reagent.

2 How to Calculate CPRR

Total reagent cost for one month (all kits, calibrators, controls consumed) divided by total reportable patient results in that period. For a complete picture, add consumables, labor, and overhead to the numerator.

QUICK TIP: Use the CPRR Calculator template for automatic calculations.

3 Typical Impact

In a well-run lab, CPRR is 15–25% higher than simple cost-per-test. In labs with low volume or high repeat rates, it can be 40–60% higher. An assay at \$3.00/test might actually cost \$4.50 per reportable result.

4 What Drives CPRR Up

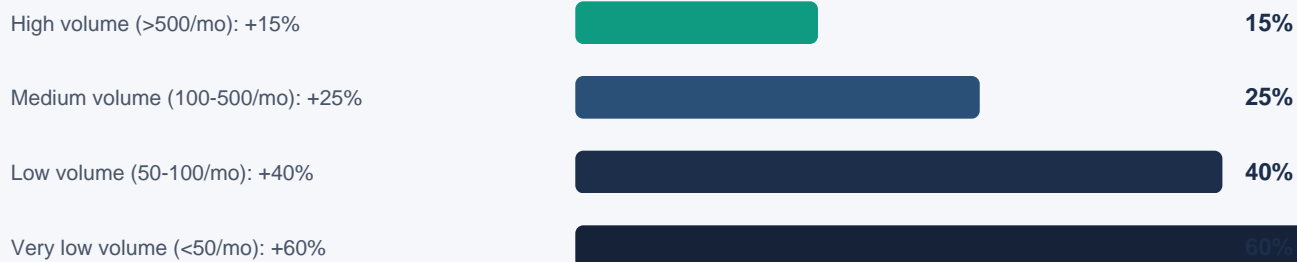
Low test volume is the biggest driver because QC and calibration costs are fixed and get spread across fewer billable tests. Other drivers: high repeat rates, short reagent stability requiring frequent calibration, and multi-level QC requirements.

5 Using CPRR for Better Decisions

Calculate CPRR for every assay. Rank them. Assays with highest CPRR relative to reimbursement are candidates for volume growth, send-out evaluation, or cost reduction.

QUICK TIP: Switch from cost-per-test to CPRR and you will make better decisions.

CPRR vs SIMPLE COST-PER-TEST BY VOLUME



Typical CPRR markup over simple cost-per-test by monthly volume

BOTTOM LINE: If you are only tracking cost-per-test, you are likely overestimating margins on low-volume assays. Switch to CPRR for better keep-or-send-out decisions.

FREE TOOLS TO GET STARTED

Template	What It Does
CPRR Calculator	Factor in QC, calibrators, repeats, and waste for true cost

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