

Reducing Analyzer Runs Batching Strategies That Actually Work

Cut per-run costs while maintaining turnaround time

Article 9 of 22

8 min-minute read

Fixed

QC, calibrators, setup
cost per run regardless

3 Tiers

STAT, Urgent, Routine
for smart batching

Hundreds

Monthly savings from
consolidating low-volume runs

Every analyzer run carries fixed costs: QC materials, calibrator usage, tech time for setup and review, and reagent consumed by priming. Reducing the number of runs while maintaining turnaround time is one of the fastest ways to improve profitability.

1 Understand Your Current Run Pattern

Document your current batching pattern for one week. How many runs per day per analyzer? How many samples per run? Average wait time between receipt and testing? This baseline shows where the biggest opportunities are.

QUICK TIP: If running 6x/day with 4 samples each, consolidating to 3x with 8 samples saves significantly.

2 Define Turnaround Time Requirements

Work with referring physicians to understand actual TAT needs. Segment your test menu into tiers: STAT (run immediately), urgent (within 4 hours), routine (within 24 hours). Batch by tier.

QUICK TIP: Most routine panels do not need same-day results for every specimen.

3 Schedule Fixed Run Times

For routine tests, establish set run times—for example, 10 AM and 3 PM. Specimens arriving before cutoff go on that run. This creates a predictable schedule and accumulates larger batches.

4 Consolidate Low-Volume Assays

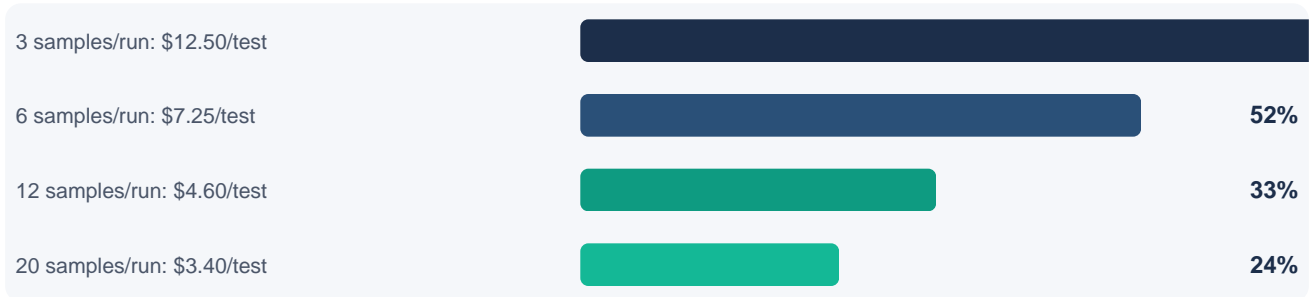
Low-volume assays are the worst offenders. Consider batching specialty assays to two or three times per week if TAT allows. Per-test cost drops dramatically with 15 samples in one batch vs three samples in five separate runs.

QUICK TIP: Start with your lowest-volume, highest-cost assays for biggest savings.

5 Monitor and Measure

Track average samples per run (should go up) and average TAT (should stay within targets). If TAT creeps up, adjust cutoff times or add a run. The goal is optimization, not degraded service.

COST PER TEST: SMALL BATCHES vs CONSOLIDATED RUNS



Illustrative cost-per-test at different batch sizes (including fixed run costs)

BOTTOM LINE: Start with your lowest-volume, highest-cost assays. Consolidating just two or three into fewer weekly runs can save hundreds per month.

FREE TOOLS TO GET STARTED

Template	What It Does
Batching & Run Schedule Planner	Plan run schedules and calculate daily savings

Download the complete JIT4LABS Templates Toolkit

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