



# Laboratory Service Manual

**Lab Dept:** Hematology

**Test Name:** APT, STOOL

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## ***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** APT

**Synonyms:** Hemoglobin F

**CPT Codes:** 83033 – Hemoglobin; F (fetal), qualitative

**Test Includes:** Qualitative testing for fetal blood in stool or gastric contents. Resulted as positive or negative for fetal blood.

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## ***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful for differentiating between newborn swallowing mother's blood and fetal gastrointestinal bleeding.

Note: The APT test is used to determine whether blood in the diaper, vomitus, or feces of a neonate contains predominantly the baby's or the mother's blood. It is a crude, non-quantitative method based on resistance of hemoglobin F to alkali denaturation.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Hematology

### **Phone Numbers:**

Minneapolis: 612-813-6280

Saint Paul: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily; 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 4 hours

**Special Instructions:** This test is useful **ONLY** on frankly bloody (red) stool or gastric specimens, not tarry (black) specimens.

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## ***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Stool or gastric contents

**Container:** Leakproof container

**Draw Volume:** 0.5 – 1 mL stool or gastric contents



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<b>Processed Volume:</b>	Minimum: 0.5 mL stool or gastric contents
<b>Collection:</b>	Routine stool or gastric contents collection
<b>Special Processing:</b>	N/A
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Brown or tarry stools are not acceptable and will be rejected; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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## ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	Negative for fetal blood
<b>Critical Values:</b>	N/A
<b>Limitations:</b>	Tests performed in cases of melena or with coffee ground material (denatured blood) may produce a false-positive result as oxyhemoglobin has been converted to hematin. Visual judgement of color produced by test procedure may lead to error if only a small amount of blood is present. Bilirubin containing meconium and possibly other substances may cause stool color interference.
<b>Methodology:</b>	Alkaline Denaturation
<b>References:</b>	Apt L, et al, Melena Neonatum, The Swallowed Blood Syndrome, J Pediat, 45:5, 6-12