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**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** ELECTROLYTE PANEL

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** LYTE

**Synonyms:** Electrolytes; Lytes

**CPT Codes:** 80051 – Electrolyte panel

**Test Includes:** Carbon Dioxide, Chloride, Potassium, Sodium concentrations reported in mEq/L, and AGAP (Anion Gap).

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** The maintenance of osmotic pressure and water distribution in the various body fluid compartments is primarily a function of the four major electrolytes, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, and HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>. In addition to water homeostasis, these electrolytes play an important part in the maintenance of pH, regulation of proper heart and muscle functions, involvement in electron transfer reactions, and participation in catalysis as cofactors for enzymes.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 30 minutes

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

**Container:** Green top (Li Heparin) tube, **preferred**  
Alternate tube: Red, marble or gold top tube

**Draw Volume:** 0.6 mL blood

**Processed Volume:** 0.2 mL serum/plasma

<b>Collection:</b>	Routine blood collection. Mix tubes containing anticoagulant by gentle inversion.  <b>Note:</b> Venipuncture samples are preferred, but capillary specimens will be accepted.
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Sample must be run within one hour of collection for CO2 stability. Centrifuge specimen, remove serum/plasma aliquot into a plastic sample cup. Avoid prolonged contact with separated cells. Store at refrigerated temperatures.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	See individual analyte procedures
<b>Critical Values:</b>	See individual analyte procedures
<b>Limitations:</b>	See individual analyte procedures
<b>Methodology:</b>	See individual analyte procedures
<b>References:</b>	See individual analyte procedures
<b>Updates:</b>	2/8/2016: Update alt tube types