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**Lab Dept:** Coagulation

**Test Name:** VON WILLEBRAND SCREEN

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** VWS

**Synonyms:** See individual test listing

**CPT Codes:** 85240 - Clotting; factor VIII (AHG), one stage  
85397 – vWFactor, GPIbM Activity  
85246 – Factor VIII vW antigen factor

**Test Includes:** Factor VIII, GPIbM Activity, and von Willebrand antigen reported as a % and GPIbM Activity:VW Antigen Ratio.

A specimen will be held for possible Multimer analysis, please contact Pathology at 612- 813- 6711 for consultation. Tubes will be held for one month.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful for diagnosis (or exclusion) of von Willebrands disease or trait.

**Lab Testing Section:** Coagulation (Minneapolis Campus)

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 3 – 5 Days, performed **Tuesday and Thursday only**

**Special Instructions:** See [Patient Preparation](#)

Deliver immediately to the laboratory at room temperature. Indicate when specimen is drawn from a line or a heparin lock.

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood

**Container:** Light Blue (Buffered Na Citrate 3.2%) top tubes

**Draw Volume:** Minimum: 5.4 mL blood (into two 2.7 mL tubes)

**Processed Volume:** Minimum: 1.8 mL plasma

**Collection:**

- A clean venipuncture is essential, avoid foaming.
- Entire sample must be collected with single collection, pooling of sample is unacceptable.
- Capillary collection is unacceptable.
- Patient's with a hematocrit level >55% must have a special tube made to adjust for the hematocrit; contact lab for a special tube.
- Mix thoroughly by gentle inversion. Deliver immediately to the laboratory at room temperature via courier or pneumatic tube.

**Off campus collections:**

- Must be tested within 4 hours.
- Do not refrigerate.
- If not received in our lab within 4 hours of collection, sample must be centrifuged and \*platelet-poor plasma removed from cells and transferred to an aliquot tube being careful not to disturb the cell layer. Centrifuge the plasma a second time and transfer into a clean aliquot tube being careful not to include any residual platelets on the bottom of the tube. Freeze at -20°C and deliver to the lab on dry ice within 2 weeks.

**\*Validation of your lab's centrifuge for platelet poor plasma is required**

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: All testing will be performed in Minneapolis.

St. Paul Lab: Send whole blood specimens to Mpls for processing via courier. Must be processed within 4 hours of collection. Contact Mpls prior to sending.

Mpls Lab: Centrifuge specimen, remove plasma sample taking care not to disturb buffy coat. Perform a second spin after removing plasma from the original collection containers. Aliquot into two screw top plastic vials (Minimum: 0.5 mL in each). Store frozen at -70 degrees C (one vial in "VWS to be completed" cup and the other in the "von Willebrand Multimer Testing" cup for potential Multimer analysis) temperatures.

**Patient Preparation:** No Heparin for minimum of 48 hours prior to testing.

**Sample Rejection:** Improper tube; clotted sample; under-filled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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***Interpretive***

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**Reference Range:**

See specific test listing for reference ranges.

For further interpretation of results or questions regarding Multimer analysis, please contact Pathology at 612- 813- 6711.

**Critical Values:**

N/A

**Limitations:**

See individual test listing

**Methodology:**

See individual test listing

**References:**

See individual test listing

**Updates:**

5/24/2010: Tubing patient specimens is no longer prohibited.

9/15/2014: Added Off Campus collection info.

8/2/2015: Days performed updated

12/2/2019: Updated draw volume.

10/31/23 Ristocetin Cofactor Assay no longer performed. Innovance VW Activity Assay (GPIbM activity) in use.