
Lab Dept: Hematology

Test Name: HEMOGLOBIN

General Information

Lab Order Codes: HGBB

Synonyms: Hgb; Hb

CPT Codes: 85018 – Blood count; hemoglobin

Test Includes: Hemoglobin reported in g/dL.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for evaluating anemia, blood loss, hemolysis, polycythemia, and other diseases of hematopoiesis.

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 4 hours

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container:

- EDTA Lavender top tube or EDTA Lavender Microtainer®
- Sims Portex® syringe (PB151) or Smooth-E syringe (956-463)

Accepted: Radiometer Balanced Heparin Capillary gas tube (MIN: 70 uL cap tube, STP: 100 uL cap tube)

Draw Volume:	<p>Lavender (EDTA) 2 mL Vacutainer tube: Minimum fill volume of 1 mL is required. Allow the tube to fill until the vacuum is exhausted, and blood flow ceases.</p> <p>Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer® tube: Minimum volume of 0.5 mL is required. To be used for neonates, collected volumes <1.0 mL, or when a capillary (skin puncture) collection is required.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>**0.4 mL (Minimum: 0.2 mL syringe, MIN: 0.07 mL capillary, STP: 0.1 mL capillary) blood</p>
Processed Volume:	Same as Draw Volume
Stability:	Stable 48 hours refrigerated
Collection:	Venipuncture or Capillary collection
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Do Not centrifuge. Process as whole blood.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; overfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

Interpretive

Reference Range:	Age and sex dependent, see CBC Reference Value Table
Critical Values:	<7.0 g/dL
Limitations:	<p>Characteristics that may affect results include: lipemia (or patients receiving lipids), icterus and cold agglutinins.</p> <p>Hyperlipemic plasma or WBC >100,000/mm³ may falsely elevate the hemoglobin result which may delay the turnaround time.</p> <p>**No follow-up or add on Hematology testing can be performed on specimens collected as a heparin syringe or capillary tube</p>
Methodology:	Non-cyanide SLS hemoglobin measurement
References:	Oski and Nathan (1998) Hematology of Infancy and Childhood, 5 th ed

Updates:

2/17/2005: Critical values previously listed as 0-7 day: <11.5 g/dL, 8-28 days: <10.0 g/dL, >28 days: <8.0 g/dL.

9/26/2018: Update to lipemic specimen info.

5/8/2019: Added hep syringe and cap tube as acceptable specimens

4/2/2025: updated volume requirements for hematology