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**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** PENTOBARBITAL

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** PENT

**Synonyms:** Nembutal®, Sodium Pentobarbital

**CPT Codes:** G0480 – Drug, test, definitive

**Test Includes:** Pentobarb level reported in ug/mL.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Therapeutic sedative/hypnotic monitoring

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts

**Referred to:** MedTox Laboratories (MedTox Test: 90)

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1-3 days

**Special Instructions:** Trough levels are most reproducible.

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

**Container:** Red top NO GEL tube  
Alternative: Green top NO GEL (Li Heparin) tube

**Draw Volume:** 6 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** 2 mL (Minimum 0.3 mL) serum/plasma

**Note:** Submission of the minimum volume results in an elevated reporting range and inability to repeat analysis.

**Collection:** Routine venipuncture

<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum/plasma aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** 1.0 – 5.0 ug/mL

**Critical Values:** >50.0 ug/mL

**Note:** Pentobarbital concentrations as high as 50 ug/ml may be required to induce therapeutic coma.

**Limitations:** <0.2 ug/mL reporting limit

**Methodology:** Gas Chromatography/Nitrogen Phosphorus Detection (GC-NPD)

**References:** [MedTox Laboratories](#) (August 2015)

**Updates:**  
5/6/2010: CPT Update, previously reported as 82205 – Barbituates, not elsewhere specified  
1/7/2015: CPT update  
2/2/2016: CPT update  
11/15/16: Tube change to no gel, CPT update.