# Lab Dept:
Chemistry

## Test Name:
CYANIDE LEVEL

### General Information

- **Lab Order Codes:** CYAN
- **Synonyms:** Amygdalin; Laetrile
- **CPT Codes:** 82600 - Cyanide
- **Test Includes:** Cyanide level reported in mg/L.

### Logistics

- **Test Indications:** Useful for monitoring possible exposure to cyanide, establishing the cause of death in cyanide exposure. This test is **not** useful in monitoring nitroprusside therapy. The preferred test for this would be Thiocyanate.
- **Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts
- **Referred to:** MedTox Laboratories (ML Test: 256)
- **Phone Numbers:**
  - MIN Lab: 612-813-6280
  - STP Lab: 651-220-6550
- **Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours
- **Turnaround Time:** 1 – 4 days
- **Special Instructions:** N/A

### Specimen

- **Specimen Type:** Whole blood
- **Container:** Gray (NAF/oxalate) tube
- **Draw Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) blood
- **Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume
- **Collection:** Routine venipuncture
Special Processing: Lab Staff: Do Not centrifuge. Send as whole blood in original collection container. Store and ship at ambient temperatures. Forward promptly.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Specimens other than whole blood; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: Normal (unexposed population): <0.025 mg/L

Smoker: average 0.41 mg/L

Note: Exposed: Levels of less than 0.2 mg/L have been found to be non-toxic; however, levels of 0.05 to 1.0 mg/L have been associated with tachycardia and flushing.

Critical Values: Toxic concentration: ≥1.0 mg/L
Note: Levels of 1.0 – 2.5 mg/L have been associated with obtundation, coma, and respiratory depression with levels greater that 2.5 mg/L, and death with values greater than 3 mg/L.

Limitations: Reporting limit: 0.050 mg/L

Methodology: High Performance Liquid Chromatography with Fluorescence Detection (HPLC-FL)

References: Mayo Medical Laboratories December 2017

Updates: 7/12/2010: Units update from ug/mL to mcg/mL.