
Lab Dept: Chemistry

Test Name: HCG BETA QUANTITATIVE, PREGNANCY, BLOOD

General Information

Lab Order Codes: HCGQ

Synonyms: HCG (Pregnancy), Quantitative; Beta HCG, Quantitative; Gonadotropin, Chorionic, Quantitative

CPT Codes: 84702 – Gonadotropin, chorionic (hCG), quantitative

Test Includes: HCG level reported in mIU/mL.

Logistics

Test Indications: Diagnosing or monitoring pregnancy or investigation of suspected ectopic pregnancy.

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry - Sendouts

Referred to: Allina Health Laboratories (Abbott Northwestern Hospital – Mpls or United Hospital – St Paul) (Allina Test#: HCG/690)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: Routine: 1 day, Stat: 3 hours

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: Green top (Li Heparin) tube
Alternate: SST (Gold, marble or red) tube or EDTA (purple top) tube

Draw Volume: 3 mL (Minimum: 0.6 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 1 mL (Minimum: 0.2 mL) serum/plasma

Collection:	Routine venipuncture
Special Processing:	<p>Lab Staff: Centrifuge green top or purple top within 2 hours of collection. For SST, allow to clot for at least 30 minutes then centrifuge within 2 hours of collection.</p> <p>For separator tubes, send original, spun container. For EDTA plasma from purple top, aliquot plasma into a screw-capped plastic vial and label as EDTA plasma. If original container is aliquoted for any reason, write appropriate specimen type (e.g., EDTA plasma, LiHep plasma or serum) on label.</p> <p>Store at refrigerated temperatures. Ship to ANW or United on an ice pack.</p> <p>STAT Requests: Mpls: Call a Quicksilver courier for Direct Service to Allina Health Laboratories. STP: Send specimen to United Lab using the pneumatic tube.</p> <p>Specimen stable refrigerated (preferred) for 7 days, frozen for 12 months. Testing cannot be added onto samples stored in gel tubes for >24 hours.</p>
Patient Preparation:	In patients receiving therapy with high biotin doses (i.e., >5 mg/day), no sample should be taken until at least 8 hours after the last biotin administration.
Sample Rejection:	Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; gross hemolysis; delay in processing or transport.

Interpretive

Reference Range:

Healthy Non-pregnant premenopausal women:<5.0 mIU/mL

For Gestational Assessment, see interpretation on result report.

Critical Values:

N/A

Limitations:

For diagnostic purposes, the results should always be assessed in conjunction with the patient's medical history, clinical examination and other findings.

Biotin supplements may cause clinically significant interference for this test assay. If interference is suspected, it is strongly recommended that biotin is discontinued for at least one week prior to retesting.

Methodology:

Chemiluminescent Microparticle Immunoassay (CMIA) and Chemiflex

References:

[Allina Health](#) April 2023

Updates:

2/26/2013: Turnaround time update.

4/16/2015: Collection volume and method update.

12/14/2017: Collection container update

4/18/2023: Updated collection container and reference range/interpretation, added limitations due to biotin supplementation, added specimen stability.