Lab Dept: Chemistry

Test Name: MERCURY, TIMED URINE

General Information

Lab Order Codes: MERU

Synonyms: Hg, Urine

CPT Codes: 83825 – Mercury, quantitative

Test Includes: Urine mercury concentration reported in mcg/specimen.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for detecting mercury toxicity.

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: 8592/HGU)

Phone Numbers:
MIN Lab: 612-813-6280
STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 - 3 days, test set up Monday - Saturday

Special Instructions: Submit an entire 24-hour urine collection. No preservative. Refrigerate specimen during and after collection.

Note: Starting and ending times of collection are required for a timed urine collection and must be documented electronically or on the proper request form.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Urine

Container: 24 hour urine container, See Collection

Draw Volume: 24 hour urine. Submit entire collection to the laboratory.

Processed Volume: 10 mL (Minimum: 2 mL) urine from a 24 hour urine collection
**Collection:** Collect in clean, plastic urine container(s) with no metal cap(s) or glued insert. Specimen should be refrigerated or collected on ice to preserve specimen.

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Mix 24 hour specimen well. Measure entire specimen. Remove aliquot into a 13 mL urine tube or a clean, plastic aliquot container with no metal cap or glued insert. Refrigerate specimen within 4 hours of completion of 24 hour collection. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. 24 hour volume is required on request form for processing. Forward promptly.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Improper use of preservatives; improper specimen handling; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

### Interpretive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Range:</th>
<th>0 – 15 years: Not established</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; or = 16 years: 0 - 9 mcg/specimen</td>
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<td>24 hour specimens only</td>
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**Critical Values:** >50 mcg/specimen

**Note:** The concentration at which toxicity is expressed is widely variable between patients. 50 mcg/24 hours is the lowest concentration at which toxicity is usually apparent.

**Limitations:** To avoid contamination by dust, specimen should be collected away from the site of expected exposure.

Gadolinium is known to interfere with most metals tests. If gadolinium-containing contrast media has been administered, a specimen should not be collected for 96 hours.

**Methodology:** Inductively Coupled Plasma/Mass Spectrometry (ICP/MS)

**References:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (January 2011)

**Updates:**
- 7/13/2010: Units changed from ug/specimen (ug/L) to mcg/specimen (mcg/L).