### General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Dept:</th>
<th>Chemistry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Name:</td>
<td>SODIUM</td>
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**Lab Order Codes:** NA  
**Synonyms:** Sodium  
**CPT Codes:** 84295 – Sodium; serum  
**Test Includes:** Sodium concentration measured in mEq/L. Sodium is also included in the following panels: Electrolyte Panel, Basic Metabolic Panel, Comprehensive Metabolic Panel, Renal Panel

### Logistics

**Test Indications:** Useful for evaluating electrolyte balance. Sodium concentration is maintained within narrow limits by carefully balanced, complex control mechanisms involving the brain, hypothalamus, pituitary, adrenal and kidney. Changes may occur in many conditions including dehydration, diabetes insipidus or mellitus, dietary intake, steroid therapy, kidney disease and congestive heart failure.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry  
**Phone Numbers:**  
- MIN Lab: 612-813-6280  
- STP Lab: 651-220-6550  
**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours  
**Turnaround Time:** 30 minutes  
**Special Instructions:** N/A

### Specimen

**Specimen Type:** Blood  
**Container:** Preferred: Green top (Li Heparin) tube  
Alternate: Red, marble or gold top tube  
**Draw Volume:** 0.6 mL blood  
**Processed Volume:** 0.2 mL plasma/serum
**Collection:** Routine collection

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove plasma/serum aliquot into plastic sample cup. Analyze sample immediately or store at refrigerated temperatures.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

### Interpretive

**Reference Range:** 137 – 147 mEq/L

**Critical Values:** <124 mEq/L or >156 mEq/L

**Limitations:**
- Benzylkonium salts present in some blood catheters will cause falsely increased results.
- Thiopental increases sodium results by 8 mEq/L at a concentration of 14 mg/dL.

**Methodology:** Integrated Multisensor Technology

**References:**
- Dimension RxL MAX Operator’s Guide (05/2003)
- Clinical Significance, Dade Behring Inc., Glasgow Business Community, Mailbox 531, P.O. Box 6101, Newark, Delaware 19714

**Updates:**
- 2/17/2005: Critical Values previously listed as <128 or >150 mEq/L.
- 8/13/2009: Turnaround time previously listed as 2 hours.
- 2/9/2016: Update alt tube types