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**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** C3 (THIRD COMPONENT OF COMPLEMENT)

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** C3

**Synonyms:** C'3; Third component of complement; Complement 3

**CPT Codes:** 86160 – Complement; antigen, each component

**Test Includes:** C3 concentration reported in mg/dL.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** C3 is the functional link between the classical and alternative pathways of activation for the membrane attack complex. The test is used for detecting consumption of the complement as seen in immune complex diseases.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 day

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

**Container:** Green top (Lithium Heparin) tube, preferred  
Alternate: Red, marble or gold top tube

**Draw Volume:** 0.6 mL blood

**Processed Volume:** 0.2 mL serum

**Collection:** Routine venipuncture

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a plastic sample cup. Specimens can be stored at refrigerated temperatures for up to 7 days. Centrifuge turbid or particulate samples prior to analysis.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** 86 - 184 mg/dL

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** N/A

**Methodology:** Nephelometry

**References:** Tietz, NW, Textbook of Clinical Chemistry (1999) WB Saunders Co., Philadelphia, PA, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

Siemens Dimension Vista C3 Flex Insert, P/N K7026G00E0803, Rev 3/2011

**Updates:** 2/8/2016: Update alt tube types