Lab Dept:	**Chemistry**
Test Name:	**FREE FATTY ACIDS**

General Information

Lab Order Codes:	FFAT
Synonyms:	Free Fatty Acids, Total, Serum
CPT Codes:	82725 – Fatty acids; nonesterified
Test Includes:	Free fatty acids, total level reported in mmol/L.

Logistics

Test Indications:	Evaluation of metabolic status of persons with endocrinopathies. Detection of pheochromocytoma and of glucagon, thyrotropin, and adrenocorticotropin secreting tumors. Monitoring of control of diabetes mellitus.
Lab Testing Sections:	Chemistry - Sendouts
Referred to:	Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: NEFA)
Phone Numbers:	MIN Lab: 612-813-6280 STP Lab: 651-220-6550
Test Availability:	Daily, 24 hours
Turnaround Time:	1 – 3 days, test is set up Monday - Friday
Special Instructions:	See Patient Preparation

Specimen

Specimen Type:	Blood
Container:	SST (Gold, marble or red) tube
Draw Volume:	3 mL (Minimum: 1.5 mL) blood
Processed Volume:	1 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) serum

Collection: Routine venipuncture

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen within 45 minutes of draw. Remove serum aliquot and freeze immediately in a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship frozen. Forward promptly.

Patient Preparation: Patient must be on an overnight fast (preferably 12 – 14 hrs)

Patient must not consume any alcohol for 24 hrs before the specimen is drawn.

Sample Rejection: Warm specimens; gross hemolysis; gross lipemia; grossly icteric; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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Interpretive

Reference Range:

Age:	**Range:**
0-15 years	Not established
> or = 16 years	0.00 – 0.72 mmol/L

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Patient should fast for 12 to 14 hours; however, in prolonged fasting or starvation, free fatty acid levels rise as much as threefold.

Patient should abstain from alcohol for at least 24 hours.

In order to eliminate the generation of free fatty acids from triglycerides by serum lipases (causing erroneous elevations), serum should be frozen soon after it is drawn and shipped frozen.

Methodology: Enzymatic Colorimetric

References: Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page November 2017

Updates: 6/14/2010: Reference range update, previously listed as <730 µEq/L.
11/14/2017: Collection container update.