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**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** MERCURY, TIMED URINE

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** MERU

**Synonyms:** Hg, Urine

**CPT Codes:** 83825 – Mercury, quantitative

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

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful for detecting mercury toxicity.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: 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.

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.

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***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

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***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	0 – 17 years:	Not established
	> or = 18 years:	<2 mcg/24 hours
24 hour specimens only		

**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.

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

**References:** [Mayo Medical Laboratories](#) (June 2018)

**Updates:** 7/13/2010: Units changed from ug/specimen (ug/L) to mcg/specimen (mcg/L).  
 1/5/2011: Updated reference range.  
 6/12/2018: Updated reference range.