
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: 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.

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

Reference Range:	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.