
Lab Dept: Chemistry

Test Name: PENTOBARBITAL

General Information

Lab Order Codes: PENT

Synonyms: Nembutal®, Sodium Pentobarbital

CPT Codes: G0480 – Drug, test, definitive
or
80345 – Barbituates

Test Includes: Pentobarb level reported in ug/mL.

Logistics

Test Indications: Therapeutic sedative/hypnotic monitoring

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry - Sendouts

Referred to: MedTox Laboratories (MedTox Test: 90)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1-3 days

Special Instructions: Trough levels are most reproducible.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: Red top NO GEL tube
Alternative: Green top NO GEL (Li Heparin) tube

Draw Volume: 6 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 2 mL (Minimum 0.3 mL) serum/plasma

Note: Submission of the minimum volume results in an elevated reporting range and inability to repeat analysis.

Collection:	Routine venipuncture
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum/plasma aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: 1.0 – 5.0 ug/mL

Critical Values: >50.0 ug/mL

Note: Pentobarbital concentrations as high as 50 ug/ml may be required to induce therapeutic coma.

Limitations: <0.2 ug/mL reporting limit

Methodology: Gas Chromatography/Nitrogen Phosphorus Detection (GC-NPD)

References: [MedTox Laboratories](#) December 2017

Updates:
5/6/2010: CPT Update, previously reported as 82205 – Barbituates, not elsewhere specified
1/7/2015: CPT update
2/2/2016: CPT update
11/15/2016: Tube change to no gel, CPT update.