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**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** FREE TRIIODOTHYRONINE (FT3)

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** FT3

**Synonyms:** Free T3; FT3

**CPT Codes:** 84481 – Triiodothyronine T3; free

**Test Includes:** Free triiodothyronine concentration reported in pg/mL.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Free Triiodothyronine (T3) is a second or third level test of thyroid function. It provides further confirmation of hyperthyroidism, supplementing the tetraiodothyronine (T4), sensitive thyrotropin (sTSH), and total T3 assays. Monitoring thyroid hormone replacement.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: FRT3)

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Monday - Friday

**Turnaround Time:** 1 - 3 days

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

**Container:** SST (Marble, gold or red top tube)

**Draw Volume:** 1.8 mL (Minimum: 1.5 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** 0.6 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) serum

Note: Submission of the minimum volume does not allow for repeat analysis and may result in QNS (quantity not sufficient) test results.

<b>Collection:</b>	Routine venipuncture
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Gross hemolysis; warm specimens; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

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***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Range</b>
	<1 year:	Reference values have not been established for patients that are less than 12 months of age.
	≥1 year:	2.8 – 4.4 pg/mL

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** FT3 is not a sensitive test for hypothyroidism.

Some patients who have been exposed to animal antigens, either in the environment or as part of treatment or imaging procedures, may have circulating anti-animal antibodies present. These anti-bodies may interfere with the assay reagents to produce unreliable results.

**Methodology:** Immunoenzymatic Assay

**References:** [Mayo Medical Laboratories](#) August 2016

**Updates:** 8/8/2016: Reference range update.  
11/21/19: Test availability changed from Daily to M-F.