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**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** VALPROIC ACID, FREE, LEVEL

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** FVPA

**Synonyms:** Unbound Depakene; Depakane; Depakote; Dipropylacetic acid; VPA, Divalproex; Valproate

**CPT Codes:** 80165 – Dipropylacetic acid (valproic acid), free

**Test Includes:** Free valproic acid concentration reported in ug/mL.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Valproic acid is used for treatment of seizures. Valproic acid may be used in conjunction with other antiepileptics against tonic-clonic and partial seizures. Peak levels are reached in 1-4 hours. The biologic half-life is about 15 hours.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts

**Referred to:** MedTox Laboratories (MedTox Test: 131)

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 4 – 6 hours for Stat, 1 day for Routine

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

**Container:** Red NO GEL tube **preferred**

Alternate tube: Green NO GEL (Li Heparin) tube

**Draw Volume:** 9 mL (Minimum: 3 mL) blood

<b>Processed Volume:</b>	3 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) serum/plasma  Note: Submission of the minimum volume does not allow for repeat analysis and may result in a QNS (quantity not sufficient) test result.
<b>Collection:</b>	Routine venipuncture. Mix tubes containing anticoagulant by gentle inversion.
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum/plasma aliquot into a plastic sample cup. Store at refrigerated temperatures.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Unlabeled specimen; specimens other than heparinized plasma/serum

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### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	Therapeutic concentration: 6 - 20 ug/mL
<b>Critical Values:</b>	Toxic concentration: $\geq 40$ ug/mL
<b>Limitations:</b>	Reporting Limit: 5.0 ug/mL
<b>Methodology:</b>	Ultrafiltration, Immunoassay (IA)
<b>References:</b>	<a href="#">Medtox Laboratories Web Page</a> December 2017
<b>Updates:</b>	5/6/2010: CPT update, previously reported as 83520. 1/7/2015: CPT update