
Lab Dept: Hematology

Test Name: ERYTHROCYTE COUNT, BLOOD

General Information

Lab Order Codes: RBC

Synonyms: Red Cell Count

CPT Codes: 85041 – Blood count; red blood cell (RBC) only

Test Includes: Red cell count reported in M/UL.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for detecting anemias and other conditions affecting red blood cell concentration.

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 2 hours

Special Instructions: **Do Not** collect specimens while lipids are being infused.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container: Lavender (EDTA top tube or Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer®)

Draw Volume: 2 mL blood in a 2 mL Lavender top tube
OR
0.5 mL in a EDTA Microtainer®

Processed Volume: Same as Draw Volume

Collection: Fill tubes to mark on tube or Microtainer®. Mix thoroughly by gentle inversion.

Special Processing: Lab Staff: **Do Not** centrifuge. Process as whole blood.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: Age and sex dependent, [see CBC Reference Value Table](#)

Critical Values: See above

Limitations: N/A

Methodology: Automated Cell Counter

References: Harmening DH (1997) Clinical Hematology and Fundamentals of Hemostasis, 3rd ed

Oski and Nathan (1998) Hematology of Infancy and Childhood, 5th ed