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**Lab Dept:** Hematology

**Test Name:** PREGNANCY TEST, SERUM

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** SHCG

**Synonyms:** HCG; pregnancy test; human chorionic gonadotropin

**CPT Codes:** 84703 – Gonadotropin, chorionic (hCG); qualitative

**Test Includes:** Qualitative serum pregnancy test reported as positive or negative.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful for the qualitative detection of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) to detect pregnancy.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Hematology

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 hour

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Blood

**Container:** Red top tube

**Draw Volume:** 2 mL (Minimum: 1.5 mL) blood

**Processed Volume:** Minimum: 0.5 mL serum

**Collection:** Routine venipuncture

**Special Processing:** Lab staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped plastic vial. Store at refrigerated temperatures.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Unlabeled or mislabeled specimen

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***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** Negative (reported as positive or negative).

Specimens containing as low a level as 25 mIU/mL hCG will yield positive results when tested with Quick Vue One-Step hCG Combo Test®. In normal pregnancy, hCG can be detected as early as 6 days following conception with concentrations doubling every 32 to 48 hours, peaking in excess of 100,000 mIU/mL in approximately 10 to 12 weeks. Levels of 25 mIU/mL hCG are reportedly present in urine and serum as early as 2 to 3 days before expected menses. Serum hCG is rapidly cleared into the urine and the concentration of hCG in serum is approximately equal to the concentration in urine.

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Some instances of a positive urine and negative serum test occur. This is due to hCG breakdown products present in the urine. Repeat the test a week later.

**Methodology:** Monoclonal Antibody, Quick Vue One-Step hCG Combo Test®

**Contraindications:** This test should not be used for tumor markers, order HCG, Beta subunit.

**References:** Quidel Quick Vue One-Step hCG Combo Test Kit Package Insert (2002)