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**Lab Dept:** Hematology

**Test Name:** WBC COUNT, BLOOD

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** WBC

**Synonyms:** White Cell Count; Total WBC; Leukocyte Count

**CPT Codes:** 85048 – Blood count; white blood cell (WBC)

**Test Includes:** White blood count reported in K/UL (x 10<sup>3</sup>/uL).

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful in determining and following treatment for leukocytosis or leukopenia.

**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:** 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

**Stability:** Optimal when run within in 4 hours of collection.  
Stable for 24 hours at room temperature.  
Stable for 36 hours at 2 – 8 degrees C.

|                             |                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Collection:</b>          | Fill to mark on tube or Microtainer®                                               |
| <b>Special Processing:</b>  | Lab Staff: Do not centrifuge. Process as whole blood.                              |
| <b>Patient Preparation:</b> | None                                                                               |
| <b>Sample Rejection:</b>    | Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens |

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***Interpretive***

|                         |                                                                   |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Reference Range:</b> | Age dependent; <a href="#">Refer to CBC Reference Value Table</a> |                                     |
| <b>Critical Values:</b> | 0 – 7 days:                                                       | <5.0 or >35.0 x 10 <sup>3</sup> /uL |
|                         | Others:                                                           | <2.0 or >25.0 x 10 <sup>3</sup> /uL |

**Limitations:** Lipemia, elevated WBC and cold agglutinins will prolong the turn around time of an occasional specimen.

**Methodology:** Automated Cell Counter

**References:** Harmening DH (1997) Clinical Hematology and Fundamentals of Hemostasis, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed

Oski and Nathan (1998) Hematology of Infancy and Childhood. 5<sup>th</sup> ed

**Updates:** 4/29/2005: Critical values updated for 0-7 day range, previously listed as <5.0 or >30.0 x10<sup>3</sup>/uL