
Lab Dept: Other Fluids

Test Name: BODY FLUID COUNT & DIFFERENTIAL

General Information

Lab Order Codes: BFC

Synonyms: Body Fluid Count

CPT Codes: 89050 - Cell count, miscellaneous body fluids
89051 - Cell count with differential

Test Includes: RBC, WBC and Differential if WBC >10 cells/mL³

Logistics

Test Indications: Evaluation of body fluids for the presence of WBC and RBC which may indicate infection, hemorrhage or malignant neoplasm

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 4 hours

Special Instructions: Specimen must arrive within 1 hour of collection. Indicate source of specimen on request form. **Do Not** send to laboratory through the pneumatic tube system.

Specimen

Specimen Type: Fluid (Specify type) See acceptable fluid types in Reference range table.

Container: Specimens collected with or without anticoagulant. If collected with anticoagulant, use EDTA.

Draw Volume: 1 mL fluid

Processed Volume: Minimum: 0.5 mL fluid

Collection: Dependent on fluid type

Special Processing: N/A

Sample Rejection: Clotted sample; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen; The following fluid types are **not acceptable** for cell counts:

- Gastric fluid
- Wound exudate or aspirate

Interpretive

Reference Range:

Appearance:			
Color:	Pale yellow to colorless		
Clarity:	Clear		
Cell Counts:			
Fluid Type:	WBC	RBC	Differential
Dialysate	<10 uL	0 uL	<25% PMNs
Paracentesis	<1,000 uL	<100,000 uL	<25% PMNs
Pleural	<1,000 uL	<100,000 uL	<25% PMNs
Thoracentesis	<1,000 uL	<100,000 uL	<25% PMNs
Synovial	< 200/uL	<2000/uL	<25% PMNs <75% Lymph's <70% Mono's

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: N/A

Methodology: Light microscopy

References: Kjelsberg C et al (1993) Body Fluids, American Society of Clinical Pathologists Press

Updates: 12/20/23: removed reference to performing slide prep to evaluate for predominant cell type. Added unacceptable source types.

3/7/24: added Synovial fluid reference range and corrected RBC values to include "<" sign.

