
Lab Dept: Serology

Test Name: SOLUBLE TRANSFERRIN RECEPTOR

General Information

Lab Order Codes: STFR2

Synonyms: sTfR

CPT Codes: 84238

Test Includes: Concentration of sTfR in mg/L

Logistics

Test indications: Aiding in the diagnosis of iron deficiency anemia in patients with chronic disease.

Lab Testing Sections: Serology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MML: STFR1)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1-3 days

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: SST tube, Red, Gold or Marble

Draw Volume: 3 mL (Minimum: 1.8 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 1 mL (Minimum: 0.6 mL) serum

Collection: Routine blood collection

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen and remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial and freeze serum. Store and ship refrigerated. Forward promptly.

Specimen stable refrigerated (preferred) for 7 days, ambient for 7 days, frozen for 90 days.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Gross hemolysis, mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: 0.63-2.64 mg/L

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: The soluble transferrin receptor (sTfR) immunoassay should not be used for the routine clinical evaluation of patients for iron status when ferritin immunoassay would be appropriate, such as in the absence of confounding pathologies (inflammation, infection, chronic disease, or malignancy).

Soluble transferrin receptor assays are not standardized, therefore results from different assays should not be used interchangeably.

Patients with hemolysis and recent blood loss may have falsely elevated sTfR concentrations.

Race-based differences in sTfR have been observed with Black subjects having 9% higher values compared to non-Black subjects.

Altitude-based differences in sTfR have been observed with subjects residing at high altitude having concentrations 9% higher than those nearer to sea level.

Methodology: Chemiluminescent Immunoassay

References: [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#) January 2026

Updates: 01/28/2026: Initial entry
02/17/2026: New test code go-live date