
Lab Dept: Urine/Stool

Test Name: PREGNANCY TEST, URINE

General Information

Lab Order Codes: UHCG

Synonyms: Urine HCG; preg test; human chorionic gonadotropin

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

Test Includes: Urine pregnancy test reported as positive or negative.

Logistics

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

Lab Testing Sections: Urinalysis

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

Specimen

Specimen Type: Urine

Container: Urine cup

Draw Volume: 1 mL urine

Processed Volume: Minimum: 0.5 mL urine

Collection: Early morning specimen preferable. No preservative.

Special Processing: Label specimen appropriately (urine).

Patient Preparation: N/A

Sample Rejection: Volume <0.5 mL urine; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

Interpretive

Reference Range: Negative (reported as positive or negative). Specimens containing as low a level as 20 mIU/mL hCG will yield positive results when tested with hCG Combo Rapid 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: Very dilute urine specimens, as indicated by low specific gravity, may not contain representative urinary hCG concentrations.

A specimen with a low level of hCG may show color development over time. If a negative result is obtained but pregnancy is suspected, hCG levels may be too low. Another sample should be collected after 48-72 hours and tested. If waiting 48 hours is not medically advisable, the test should be confirmed with a quantitative hCG test.

This test does not detect hCG degradation products, including free-beta hCG and beta core fragments. Quantitative assays used to detect hCG may detect degradation products and therefore may disagree with the results of this rapid test.

Methodology: Monoclonal Antibody, hCG Combo Rapid Test®

References: hCG Combo Rapid Test Kit Package Insert (2014) Cardinal Health #1155904805, Rev C 9/14

Update: 10/1/2017: Updated method, reference range and limitations.