



Lactic Acid

Alternate Name:	Lactate	
Performing Lab:	New Hanover	
Specimen Container:	Gray top tube (sodium fluoride / p oxylate)	
Minimum Volume Required:	Tube must be at least half full	
Testing Availability	Routine:	24 hours/day
	Stat:	Yes
Turnaround Time:	Routine: 4 hours Stat: < 1 hour	
Special Handling:	Specimen must be collected on ice and delivered to the laboratory immediately. Specimen must be collected in tubes that are at least half full.	
Patient Preparation:	None	
Specimen Stability:		
Reference Range:	0.4 – 2.0 mmol/L	
Critical Value:	> 4.0 mmol/L	
CPT Code:	83605	
Testing Methodology:	Colorimetric	
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling Specimen not on ice	
Other Comments:		
Clinical Significance:	Lactic acid is the endproduct of the anaerobic metabolism of glucose. The blood lactic acid concentration is affected by its production in muscle cells and erythrocytes and its rate of metabolism in the liver. During exercise, blood lactate can increase up to ten times of normal levels.	