

Acceptable Tube Types



Potassium

Alternate Name:	K
Performing Lab:	New Hanover and Cape Fear
Specimen Container:	Yellow serum separator tube or green top tube (lithium heparin)
Minimum Volume Required:	1.0 mL
Testing Availability	Routine: 24 hours/day Stat: Yes
Turnaround Time:	Routine: 4 hours Stat: < 1 hour
Special Handling:	None
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	
Reference Range:	3.5 – 5.1 mmol/L
Critical Value:	< 3.0 mmol/L or > 6.0 mmol/L
CPT Code:	84132
Testing Methodology:	Integrated Multisensor Technology
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling Hemolysis
Other Comments:	
Clinical Significance:	Potassium measurements are useful in monitoring electrolyte balance in the diagnosis and treatment of disease conditions characterized by low or high blood potassium levels. Potassium is elevated in adrenal cortical insufficiency, acute renal failure and in some cases of diabetic acidosis. Potassium is decreased in diuretic administration and renal tubular acidosis.