

Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate



Alternate Name:	Sed Rate, Sedimentation Rate, Westergren ESR test
Performing Lab:	New Hanover
Specimen Container:	Lavender tube (EDTA) or purple microtainer
Minimum Volume Required:	1 mL or 2 microtainers filled to 500 uL
Testing Availability	Routine: 24 hours/day Stat: Not Applicable
Turnaround Time:	Routine: 4 hours
Special Handling:	None
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	Should be tested within 4 hours after collection Stable for up to 24 hours if refrigerated
Reference Range:	<p>Male:</p> <p>< 50 years 0 -15 mm/hr > 50 years 0 - 20 mm/hr</p> <p>Female:</p> <p>< 50 years 0 -20 mm/hr > 50 years 0 – 30 mm/hr</p>
Critical Value:	None
CPT Code:	85651
Testing Methodology:	Westergren
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improper labeling Clotted specimen Sample contamination Gross hemolysis Severe lipemia Presence of cold agglutinins Specimen in wrong anticoagulant
Other Comments:	Abnormally high or low hematocrits, along with some hemoglobinopathies, may affect results. Patients with profound anemia may have falsely elevated results.
Clinical Significance:	Useful in differentiating inflammatory and neoplastic diseases and as an index of disease severity.