

Acceptable Tube Types

Lithium



Alternate Name:	Eskalith
Performing Lab:	New Hanover
Specimen Container:	Red top tube or red microtainer
Minimum Volume Required:	2 mL whole blood 500 uL whole blood from microtainer
Testing Availability	Routine: 24 hours/day Stat: Yes
Turnaround Time:	Routine: 4 hours Stat: < 1 hour
Special Handling:	Specimens usually drawn 12 hours after last dose of lithium
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	Serum should be separated from cells within 2 hrs of collection.
Reference Range:	0.6 – 1.2 mmol/L
Critical Value:	> 1.2 mmol/L
CPT Code:	80178
Testing Methodology:	Colorimetric
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling
Other Comments:	
Clinical Significance:	Lithium ions in the brain produce gradual control of acute episodes of mania in patients with manic-depressive affective disorders.