

Acceptable Tube Types



Valproic Acid

Alternate Name:	Depakene
Performing Lab:	New Hanover Orthopedic Hospital
Specimen Container:	Red or green tube, no gel Can use serum or plasma For Peds – Red microtainer
Minimum Volume Required:	2 mL whole blood Microtainer – 500 uL whole blood
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:	For treatment of manic episodes associated with bipolar disorder: therapeutic trough = 50 – 125 ug/ml. For treatment of complex partial seizures and absences seizures: therapeutic range = 50 – 100 ug/ml
Critical Value:	> 150 mg/mL
CPT Code:	80164
HED Test Group:	Test Group – LAB at NH site
HED Test Name:	Test Group – CLAB at CF site Test Name – Depakene (at both sites)
Testing Methodology:	Turbidimetric Immunoassay
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling
Other Comments:	
Clinical Significance:	Valproic acid is used as an anticonvulsant to treat certain types of seizures, to prevent migranine headaches, and to treat various

psychiatric illnesses such as bipolar disorder and aggression. Drugs that compete for protein-binding sites with Valproic Acid, can increase the concentration of Valproic Acid. Therapeutic drug monitoring is useful to optimize dose. Measurement of the free concentration is useful if toxicity is suspected.