

Potassium

CPT Code: 84132

Order Code: C104

ABN Requirement: No

Synonyms: K+

Specimen: Serum

Volume: 0.5 mL

Minimum Volume: 0.2 mL

Container: Gel-barrier tube (SST, Tiger Top)

Collection:

1. Collect and label sample according to standard protocols.
2. Gently invert tube 5 times immediately after draw. DO NOT SHAKE.
3. Allow blood to clot 30 minutes.
4. Centrifuge for 10 minutes.

Transport: Store serum at 2°C to 8°C after collection and ship the same day per packaging instructions included with the provided shipping box.

Stability:

Ambient (15-25°C): 14 days

Refrigerated (2-8°C): 14 days

Frozen (-20°C): >14 days

Causes for Rejection: Specimens other than serum; improper labeling; samples not stored properly; samples older than stability limits; hemolyzed or grossly lipemic specimens.

Methodology: Ion Specific Electrode (ISE) test

Turn Around Time: 1 to 3 days

Reference Range:

Age	mmol/L
All Ages	3.5 - 5.1

Priority Values:

Age	Priority 1 Value (mmol/L)	Priority 1 Value (mmol/L)
All Ages	≤ 2.7	≥ 6.2

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.

Limitations: Hemolysis causes artificially high potassium results. Potassium concentration in erythrocytes is 25 times higher than in normal plasma.

The CPT codes provided are based on AMA guidelines and are for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed.