**Overview**

**Useful For**
Detecting or monitoring of IgM monoclonal gammopathies and IgM-related immune deficiencies

**Method Name**
Nephelometry

**NY State Available**
Yes

**Specimen**

**Specimen Type**
Serum

**Specimen Required**

**Container/Tube:**
- **Preferred:** Serum gel
- **Acceptable:** Red top

**Specimen Volume:** 1 mL

**Forms**
If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Gastroenterology and Hepatology Client Test Request (T728)](#) with the specimen.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**
0.5 mL

**Reject Due To**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Acceptability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hemolysis</td>
<td>Mild OK; Gross OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipemia</td>
<td>Mild OK; Gross reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icterus</td>
<td>Mild OK; Gross OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Specimen Stability Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
<td>Refrigerated (preferred)</td>
<td>28 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ambient</td>
<td>28 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frozen</td>
<td>28 days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information
The gamma globulin band as seen in conventional serum protein electrophoresis consists of 5 immunoglobulins. In normal serum, about 5% is immunoglobulin M (IgM).

Elevations of IgM may be due to polyclonal immunoglobulin production. Monoclonal elevations of IgM occur in macroglobulinemia.

Monoclonal gammopathies of all types may lead to a spike in the gamma globulin zone seen on serum protein electrophoresis.

Decreased immunoglobulin levels are found in patients with congenital deficiencies.

Reference Values
0-<5 months: 26-122 mg/dL
5-<9 months: 32-132 mg/dL
9-<15 months: 40-143 mg/dL
15-<24 months: 46-152 mg/dL
2-<4 years: 37-184 mg/dL
4-<7 years: 37-224 mg/dL
7-<10 years: 38-251 mg/dL
10-<13 years: 41-255 mg/dL
13-<16 years: 45-244 mg/dL
16-<18 years: 49-201 mg/dL
> or =18 years: 37-286 mg/dL

Interpretation
Increased serum immunoglobulin concentrations occur due to polyclonal or oligoclonal immunoglobulin proliferation in hepatic disease (hepatitis, liver cirrhosis), connective tissue diseases, acute and chronic infections, as well as in the cord blood of neonates with intrauterine and perinatal infections.

Elevation of immunoglobulin M may occur in monoclonal gammopathies such as macroglobulinemia, primary systemic amyloidosis, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, and related disorders.

Decreased levels are found in patients with primary or secondary immune deficiencies.

Cautions
Electrophoresis is usually required to interpret an elevated immunoglobulin class as polyclonal versus monoclonal. Immunofixation is usually required to characterize a monoclonal protein.
If there is a discrete M-peak, the monoclonal protein can be monitored with quantitative immunoglobulins. If immunoglobulin quantitation is used to monitor the size of a monoclonal protein which is contained in a back-ground of polyclonal immunoglobulins, however, changes in the immunoglobulin quantitation may reflect changes in the background immunoglobulins, and serum protein electrophoresis should therefore be used to monitor the monoclonal protein.

**Clinical Reference**


**Performance**

**Method Description**

In this Siemens Nephelometer II method, the light scattered onto the antigen-antibody complexes is measured. The intensity of the measured scattered light is proportional to the amount of antigen-antibody complexes in the sample under certain conditions. If the antibody volume is kept constant, the signal behaves proportionally to the antigen volume.

A reference curve is generated by a standard with a known antigen content on which the scattered light signals of the samples can be evaluated and calculated as an antigen concentration. Antigen-antibody complexes are formed when a sample containing antigen and the corresponding antiserum are put into a cuvette. A light beam is generated with a light emitting diode (LED), which is transmitted through the cuvette. The light is scattered onto the immunocomplexes that are present. Antigen and antibody are mixed in the initial measurement, but no complex is formed yet. An antigen-antibody complex is formed in the final measurement.

The result is calculated by subtracting value of the final measurement from the initial measurement. The distribution of intensity of the scattered light depends on the ratio of the particle size of the antigen-antibody complexes to the radiated wavelength. (Instruction manual: Siemens Nephelometer II, Siemens, Inc, Newark, DE, Version 3, 2008)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed**

Monday through Saturday; Continuously until 3 p.m.

**Analytic Time**

1 day
Test Definition: IGM
Immunoglobulin M (IgM), S

Maximum Laboratory Time
3 days

Specimen Retention Time
14 days

Performing Laboratory Location
Rochester

Fees and Codes

Fees
- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their Regional Manager. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test has been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer’s instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

CPT Code Information
82784

LOINC® Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test ID</th>
<th>Test Order Name</th>
<th>Order LOINC Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGM</td>
<td>Immunoglobulin M (IgM), S</td>
<td>2472-9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result ID</th>
<th>Test Result Name</th>
<th>Result LOINC Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGM</td>
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