

## Overview

### Useful For

Establishing a diagnosis of an allergy to giant ragweed, short ragweed, and Western ragweed

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Defining the allergen responsible for eliciting signs and symptoms

Identifying allergens:

- Responsible for allergic disease and/or anaphylactic episode
- To confirm sensitization prior to beginning immunotherapy
- To investigate the specificity of allergic reactions to insect venom allergens, drugs, or chemical allergens

### Testing Algorithm

Includes testing for giant ragweed, short ragweed, and Western ragweed allergen.

### Special Instructions

- [Allergens - Immunoglobulin E \(IgE\) Antibodies](#)

### Method Name

Fluorescence Enzyme Immunoassay (FEIA)

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

Serum

### Advisory Information

For a listing of allergens available for testing, see [Allergens - Immunoglobulin E \(IgE\) Antibodies](#) in Special Instructions

### Specimen Required

**Container/Tube:**

**Preferred:** Red top

**Acceptable:** Serum gel

**Specimen Volume:** 0.5 mL

### Forms

[If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send an Allergen Test Request \(T236\)](#) with the specimen.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

0.3 mL

**Reject Due To**

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	14 days	
	Frozen	90 days	

**Clinical and Interpretive**
**Clinical Information**

Clinical manifestations of immediate hypersensitivity (allergic) diseases are caused by the release of proinflammatory mediators (histamine, leukotrienes, and prostaglandins) from immunoglobulin E (IgE)-sensitized effector cells (mast cells and basophils) when cell-bound IgE antibodies interact with allergen.

In vitro serum testing for IgE antibodies provides an indication of the immune response to allergen(s) that may be associated with allergic disease.

The allergens chosen for testing often depend upon the age of the patient, history of allergen exposure, season of the year, and clinical manifestations. In individuals predisposed to develop allergic disease(s), the sequence of sensitization and clinical manifestations proceed as follows: eczema and respiratory disease (rhinitis and bronchospasm) in infants and children less than 5 years due to food sensitivity (milk, egg, soy, and wheat proteins) followed by respiratory disease (rhinitis and asthma) in older children and adults due to sensitivity to inhalant allergens (dust mite, mold, and pollen inhalants).

**Reference Values**

Class	IgE kU/L	Interpretation
0	<0.35	Negative
1	0.35-0.69	Equivocal
2	0.70-3.49	Positive
3	3.50-17.4	Positive
4	17.5-49.9	Strongly positive
5	50.0-99.9	Strongly positive
6	> or =100	Strongly positive

Reference values apply to all ages.

## Interpretation

[Detection of IgE antibodies in serum \(Class 1 or greater\) indicates an increased likelihood of allergic disease as opposed to other etiologies and defines the allergens that may be responsible for eliciting signs and symptoms.](#)

The level of IgE antibodies in serum varies directly with the concentration of IgE antibodies expressed as a class score or kU/L.

## Cautions

Testing for IgE antibodies is not useful in patients previously treated with immunotherapy to determine if residual clinical sensitivity exists, or in patients in whom the medical management does not depend upon identification of allergen specificity.

Some individuals with clinically insignificant sensitivity to allergens may have measurable levels of IgE antibodies in serum, and results must be interpreted in the clinical context.

False-positive results for IgE antibodies may occur in patients with markedly elevated serum IgE (>2500 kU/L) due to nonspecific binding to allergen solid phases.

## Clinical Reference

Homburger HA, Hamilton RG: Chapter 55: Allergic diseases. In Henry's Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods. 23rd edition. Edited by RA McPherson, MR Pincus. Elsevier, 2017, pp 1057-1070

## Performance

### Method Description

Specific IgE from the patient's serum reacts with the allergen of interest, which is covalently coupled to an ImmunoCAP. After washing away nonspecific IgE, enzyme-labeled anti-IgE antibody is added to form a complex. After incubation, unbound anti-IgE is washed away and the bound complex is then incubated with a developing agent. After stopping the reaction, the fluorescence of the eluate is measured. Fluorescence is proportional to the amount of specific IgE present in the patient's sample (ie, the higher the fluorescence value, the more IgE antibody is present).(Package insert: ImmunoCAP System Specific IgE FEIA, Uppsala, Sweden Rev 06/2019)

### PDF Report

No

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

Monday through Friday; 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Analytic Time

Same day/1 day

### Maximum Laboratory Time

3 days

### Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

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**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 was developed using an analyte specific reagent. Its performance characteristics were determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. This test has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

**CPT Code Information**

86003

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
WEED4	Weed Panel # 4	73710-6

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC Value
WEED4	Weed Panel # 4	73710-6