Overview

Useful For
Work-up of congenital hemolytic anemias

Method Name
Only orderable as part of a profile or as a reflex. For more information see HAEVP / Hemolytic Anemia Evaluation; or HBELE / Hemoglobin Electrophoresis Cascade, Blood; or THEVP / Thalassemia and Hemoglobinopathy Evaluation; or REVE / Erthrocytosis Evaluation; or MEVP / Methemoglobinemia Evaluation.

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Whole Blood EDTA

Specimen Required
Only orderable as part of a profile or as a reflex. For more information see HAEVP / Hemolytic Anemia Evaluation; or HBELE / Hemoglobin Electrophoresis Cascade, Blood; or THEVP / Thalassemia and Hemoglobinopathy Evaluation; or REVE / Erthrocytosis Evaluation; or MEVP / Methemoglobinemia Evaluation.

Specimen Minimum Volume
1 mL

Specimen Stability Information

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<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Special Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>Whole Blood EDTA</td>
<td>Refrigerated</td>
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Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information
Unstable hemoglobin disease is rare and may be caused by any 1 of a large number of hemoglobin variants. They are inherited as an autosomal dominant trait. The severity of the disease varies according to the hemoglobin variant; there may be no clinical symptoms or the disease may produce a mild, moderate, or severe hemolytic anemia.

The stained peripheral blood smear shows anisocytosis, poikilocytosis, basophilic stippling, polychromasia and, sometimes, hypochromia. The reticulocyte count may be increased. Splenomegaly and Heinz bodies may also be present.

Reference Values
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**Test Definition: UNHB**

Unstable Hemoglobin, B

Normal (reported as normal [stable] or abnormal [unstable])

**Interpretation**

An abnormal or unstable result is indicative of a hemoglobin variant present. Other confirmatory tests should be performed to identify the hemoglobinopathy (HBE / Hemoglobin Electrophoresis Cascade, Blood).

**Cautions**

False positives will be obtained in blood specimens containing >5% fetal hemoglobin or in specimens >1 week old.

**Clinical Reference**


**Performance**

**Method Description**

Unstable hemoglobins precipitate in dilute solutions of isopropanol. Washed erythrocytes are hemolyzed and cleared by centrifugation. Isopropanol is added. The hemolysate is incubated at 37 degrees C for 20 minutes and examined for turbidity. There is no turbidity with normal hemoglobins.(Schmidt RM: Laboratory diagnosis of hemoglobinopathies. In Hematology Clinical and Laboratory Practice. Edited by RL Bick. St. Louis, Mosby-Year Book Inc, 1993, pp 327-389)

**PDF Report**

No

**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 was developed and its performance characteristics 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**

83068

**LOINC® Information**

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<td>Hemoglobin, Unstable, B</td>
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Test Definition: UNHB
Unstable Hemoglobin, B