



# Test Definition: URAU

Urea, 24 Hour, Urine

## Overview

### Useful For

Assessment of protein intake and/or nitrogen balance

### Special Instructions

- [Urine Preservatives-Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens](#)

### Method Name

Kinetic Ultraviolet Assay

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

Urine

### Necessary Information

1. **24-Hour volume (in milliliters) is required.**
2. For any timed collection the volume and length of collection is required.

### Specimen Required

**Supplies:** Sarstedt 5 mL Aliquot Tube (T914)

**Container/Tube:** Plastic, urine tube

**Specimen Volume:** 4 mL

#### Collection Instructions:

1. Collect urine for 24 hours.
2. Mix well before taking aliquot.

**Additional Information:** See [Urine Preservatives-Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens](#) for multiple collections.

### Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Renal Diagnostics Test Request](#) (T830) with the specimen.

### Urine Preservative Collection Options

**Note:** The addition of preservative or application of temperature controls **must occur within 4 hours of completion** of the collection.

Ambient	No
Refrigerate	OK

Frozen	OK
50% Acetic Acid	OK
Boric Acid	Preferred
Diazolidinyl Urea	OK
6M Hydrochloric Acid	OK
6M Nitric Acid	No
Sodium Carbonate	OK
Thymol	OK
Toluene	No

### Specimen Minimum Volume

1 mL

### Reject Due To

All specimens will be evaluated at Mayo Clinic Laboratories for test suitability.

### Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Urine	Refrigerated (preferred)	14 days	
	Ambient	7 days	
	Frozen	30 days	

## Clinical & Interpretive

### Clinical Information

Urea is a low molecular weight substance (60 Da) that is freely filtered by glomeruli, and the majority is excreted into the urine, although variable amounts are reabsorbed along the nephron. It is the major end product of protein metabolism in humans and other mammals. Approximately 50% of urinary solute excretion and 90% to 95% of total nitrogen excretion is composed of urea under normal conditions. Factors that tend to increase urea excretion include increases in glomerular filtration rate, increased dietary protein intake, protein catabolic conditions, and water diuretic states. Factors that reduce urea excretion include low protein intake and conditions that result in low urine output (eg, dehydration).

### Reference Values

> or =18 years: 7-42 g/24 hours

Reference values have not been established for patients who are less than 18 years of age.

### Interpretation

Because multiple factors (glomerular filtration rate, dietary protein intake, protein catabolic rate, hydration state, etc.) can independently affect the urinary excretion of urea, all of these factors must be taken into account when interpreting the results.

**Cautions**

No significant cautionary statements

**Clinical Reference**

1. Lamb EJ, Jones GRD: Kidney function tests In: Rifai N, Horvath AR, Wittwer CT, eds. Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. 6th ed. Elsevier; 2018:498-500
2. Bankir L, Trinh-Trang- Tan MM: Urea and the kidney. In: Brenner BM eds. The Kidney. 6th ed. WB Saunders Company; 2000

**Performance****Method Description**

Urea is hydrolyzed by urease to form ammonia and carbon dioxide. The ammonia formed then reacts with ketoglutarate and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH) in the presence of glutamate dehydrogenase to yield glutamate and NAD<sup>+</sup>. The decrease in absorbance is due to consumption of NADH and is measured kinetically at 340 nm.(Package insert: Roche Urea; BUN. Roche Diagnostics; V 8.0, 02/2020)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) Performed**

Monday through Sunday

**Report Available**

Same day/1 day

**Specimen Retention Time**

7 days

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

**Fees & 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 account representative. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

**Test Classification**

This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per

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manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

**CPT Code Information**

84540

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
URAU	Urea, 24 HR, U	48999-7

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
UREA	Urea, 24 HR, U	48999-7
TM33	Collection Duration	13362-9
VL31	Urine Volume	3167-4
URECN	Urea Concentration	63481-6