

Notification Date: December 2, 2025 Effective Date: December 16, 2025

Codeine and Metabolite, Serum

Test ID: CODES

Useful for:

Monitoring therapeutic efficacy/compliance in serum specimens of patients who are prescribed morphine.

Method:

Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

Reference Values:

Therapeutic range/Metabolite information (as applicable):

Codeine: 10-100 ng/mL

Morphine: 10-80 ng/mL when used as sole therapy; Minor metabolite of codeine

Cutoff concentrations: Codeine: 1.0 ng/mL Morphine: 1.0 ng/mL

Specimen Requirements:

Supplies: Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)

Collection Container/Tube: Red top (Serum gel/SST are not acceptable)

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 1 mL serum

Specimen Minimum Volume: 0.5 mL serum

Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Serum Red	Refrigerated (preferred)	14 days
	Ambient	24 hours
	Frozen	28 days

Cautions:

Any aberrant result should be discussed with the patient and could be confirmed by re-testing or using an alternative matrix (eg, urine).

CPT Code:

G0480

80361 (if appropriate for select payers)

Clinical Toxicology CPT Code Client Guidance

Day(s) Performed: Wednesday Report Available: 2 to 9 days

Questions

Contact Brandon DeBoom, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.