Melanocyte Stimulation Hormone, Alpha (α-MSH)  

Perform: Varies  
Report: 10-13 days  

Specimen Required:  
Patient Prep: Patient should not be on any steroid, ACTH, or hypertension medication, if possible, for at least 48 hours prior to specimen collection. Morning fasting specimens are preferred.  
Collect: Lavender (EDTA) or Pink (K$_2$EDTA).  
Specimen Preparation: Separate from cells ASAP or within 2 hours of collection. Transfer 3 mL plasma to an ARUP Standard Transport Tube. (Min. 1 mL) Freeze immediately.  
Storage/Transport Temperature: CRITICAL FROZEN. Separate specimens must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered.  
Stability (collection to initiation of testing): Ambient: Unacceptable; Refrigerated: 24 hours; Frozen: 1 month