

HOTLINE: Effective December 6, 2021

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0098819

Melanocyte Stimulation Hormone, Alpha (a-MSH)

MSH ALPHA

**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 (K<sub>2</sub> or K<sub>3</sub>EDTA) or pink (K<sub>2</sub>EDTA).

**New York State Clients:** Lavender (K<sub>3</sub>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.

**New York State Clients:** Collect in a prechilled tube. Remove the cap from the tube and add 0.25 mL Trasylol to the whole blood. Recap the tube and invert several times. Separate from cells and freeze.

**Test is not performed at ARUP; separate specimens must be submitted when multiple tests are ordered.**

Storage/Transport Temperature: **CRITICAL FROZEN.**

Stability (collection to initiation of testing): Ambient: Unacceptable; Refrigerated: 24 hours; Frozen: 1 month