

HOTLINE: Effective May 20, 2019

0099231

Cobalt, Blood

COBALT B

**Specimen Required:** Patient Prep: Diet, medication, and nutritional supplements may introduce interfering substances. Patients should be encouraged to discontinue nutritional supplements, vitamins, minerals, and non-essential over-the-counter medications (upon the advice of their physician).

Collect: Royal Blue (K<sub>2</sub>EDTA) or Royal Blue (Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA).

Specimen Preparation: Transport 6 mL whole blood in the original collection tube. (Min: 0.5 mL)

Storage/Transport Temperature: Room temperature. Also acceptable: Refrigerated.

Unacceptable Conditions: Specimens collected in containers other than specified. Specimens transported in containers other than specified. Clotted specimens.

Stability (collection to initiation of testing): Ambient: Indefinitely; Refrigerated: Indefinitely; Frozen: Unacceptable

**Interpretive Data:** Elevated results may be due to skin or collection-related contamination, including the use of a noncertified metal-free collection/transport tube. If contamination concerns exist due to elevated levels of blood cobalt, confirmation with a second specimen collected in a certified metal-free tube is recommended.

Blood cobalt levels can be used in the assessment of occupational exposure or toxic ingestion. Symptoms associated with cobalt toxicity vary based on route of exposure and may include cardiomyopathy, allergic dermatitis, pulmonary fibrosis, cough and dyspnea. Blood is the preferred specimen type for evaluating metal ion release from metal-on-metal joint arthroplasty.

See Compliance Statement B: [www.aruplab.com/CS](http://www.aruplab.com/CS)

**HOTLINE NOTE:** Remove information found in the Note field.