



# Thyroid Function Tests

## Synonyms

TFT's, TSH

## Clinical Indication

Screening for suspected thyroid disease and monitoring treatment for hypo- and hyperthyroidism. Guidelines on thyroid function testing are available.

It is normally not necessary to repeat TFT's within 4 weeks.

## Part of Profile / See Also

TSH is analysed as a first line test with Free T4, Free T3 and thyroid antibodies analysed as indicated.

## Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request.

In order to help with provision of clinical details and selection of appropriate tests, request forms/ICE includes several options for thyroid function:

- TFT1 - Thyroid Disease?
- TFT2- On Thyroxine
- TFT3 - Anti-Thyroid Rx

## Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request.

The minimum retesting interval is 14 days.

## Turnaround Time

Same day

## Patient Preparation

None

## Sample Requirements

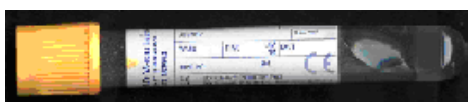
### Specimen Type

Serum and plasma

### Volume

1 ml

### Acceptable Containers



Yellow top (SST) tube



Green top (lithium-heparin) tube



Paediatric orange top (lithium-heparin)



Paediatric green top (lithium-heparin)

Plain serum samples may also be used.

## Reference Range & Units

TSH (mU/L)		
Age	Reference Range	Source
< 20 days	No range	
20 days - 19 years	0.79 - 5.85	Caliper study
> 20 years	0.3 - 5.0	Leeds TFT study

Please see the individual pages for the [Free T4](#) and [Free T3](#) reference ranges.

**Interferences**

This 'TSH first' strategy can give a false indication of thyroid status in pituitary dysfunction. Therefore, requests for thyroid function where pituitary dysfunction is known or suspected, must be clearly indicated so that appropriate tests can be undertaken.

**Interpretation & Clinical**

**Decision Value (if applicable)**

Interpretive comment will be provided based on clinical information and the results.

**References**

Beckman kit insert.

**Test code**

TFT1 TFT2 TFT3

**Lab Handling**

Analysed from primary tube and stored at 4°C.  
Serum and plasma stable for 7 days at 4°C.