





Bicarbonate

Synonyms	TCO2, Total CO2, HC03
Clinical Indication	Investigation of acidosis/alkalosis.
Part of Profile / See Also	
Request Form	Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request
Availability / Frequency of Analysis	On request.
Turnaround Time	Same day
Patient Preparation	None required
Sample Requirements	
Specimen Type	Plasma and serum.
Volume	2 ml
Container	 Green top (lithium-heparin) tube Or  Yellow top (SST) tube Or  paediatric orange top (lithium-heparin) Or  paediatric green top (lithium-heparin) Plain serum samples may also be used.
	<p>Samples must be transported to the laboratory within 4 hours of collection</p>
Reference Range & Units	Serum Bicarbonate: 22 - 29 mmol/L Reference: Pathology Harmony Group, Clinical Biochemistry Outcomes, January 2011 (www.pathologyharmony.co.uk)
Interferences	Please note that this test cannot be added on to existing specimens as uncapped samples lose bicarbonate to air.
Interpretation & Clinical Decision Value (if applicable)	Decreased in metabolic acidosis (e.g. DKA) and respiratory alkalosis (overbreathing). Raised in compensated respiratory acidosis and metabolic alkalosis.
References	Beckman
Test code	BIC
Lab Handling	Centrifuge sample within 8 hours. Serum and plasma samples stable for 8 hours at 2-8°C once separated.

