

Ethanol

Synonyms

Alcohol, Ethyl Alcohol, Grain Alcohol

Clinical Indication

Rarely needed in the investigation of possible intoxication.

May be required in patient prior to transplant

An urgent ethanol service is available for monitoring ethanol levels in treatment of ethylene glycol / Methanol poisoning

An information sheet is available from National Poisons Service ([Toxbase](#)).

A serum osmolality is useful as this will reveal an unexplained osmolal gap in the presence of ethanol (and also other alcohols such as methanol, ethylene glycol).

Samples cannot be accepted for analysis of alcohol for legal purposes (e.g. drink driving). Information for patients on laboratories offering such a service is available.

Part of Profile / See Also

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request and by agreement with the Consultant Biochemist.

Turnaround Time

Same day.

Patient Preparation

None required.

Sample Requirements

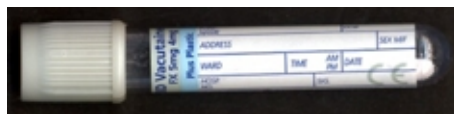
Specimen Type

Plasma

Volume

2 ml

Container



Grey top (fluoride oxalate) tube

Reference Range & Units

Limit of detection is 10 mg/dL

The legal limit for driving a motor vehicle is 80 mg/dL blood.

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

References

Test code

ALC

Lab Handling

Processing: Analysed from primary tube and stored at 4°C.

Plasma stable at 2-8°C 7 days.