

Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)

Alternate Name(s)

AST

Orderable

AST

Turnaround Time

From time of receipt in the testing lab:

- **Routine:** 4 hours
- **STAT:** 1 hour

Specimen Requirements

Sample Types: Plasma, Serum

Containers:

- Adult: 4.5 mL Green (Lithium Heparin) Top Vacutainer
- Pediatric:
 - 0-2 years: 0.5mL Green Top Microtainer
 - 2-10 years: 2mL Green Top Vacutainer
- Alternate: Serum from a 5mL Gold Top or 6mL Red Top Vacutainer

Minimum Testing Volume: 0.2mL for pediatric samples

Specimen Handling

Rejection Criteria: Underfilled tube

Required Documentation

[General Core Laboratory Requisition](#) if not electronically ordered

Method of Analysis

Enzymatic rate



Reference Ranges

Male	Female
<40 U/L	<32 U/L

Interpretive Comments

Very sensitive but non-specific indicator of hepatocellular damage. Also elevated in cardiac and skeletal muscle damage and erythrocyte disorders. Hemolysis will falsely increase plasma results.

Testing Location

Core Laboratory

Testing Schedule

As required

Additional Comments or Limitations

Hemolysis will falsely increase plasma results.

