

POTASSIUM
PLASMA

Orderable - K

Turn Around Time: 4 hours

STAT: 1 hour

Specimen:

Adult	Pediatric
4.5 mL Green top Vacutainer tube	0-2 years: 0.6 mL Green Microtainer 2-10 years: 3 mL Green top tube
Serum from a 5 mL Gold top or 6 mL Red top is also acceptable	



Laboratory:
Core Lab



Requisition:
GENERAL LABORATORY
REQUISITION



Method of Analysis:
Potentiometric, Indirect
Ion-Selective Electrodes



Test Schedule:
As required

Collection Information:

Collect blood aseptically in a Vacutainer tube.

Unspun samples need be sent to lab under 4 hours.

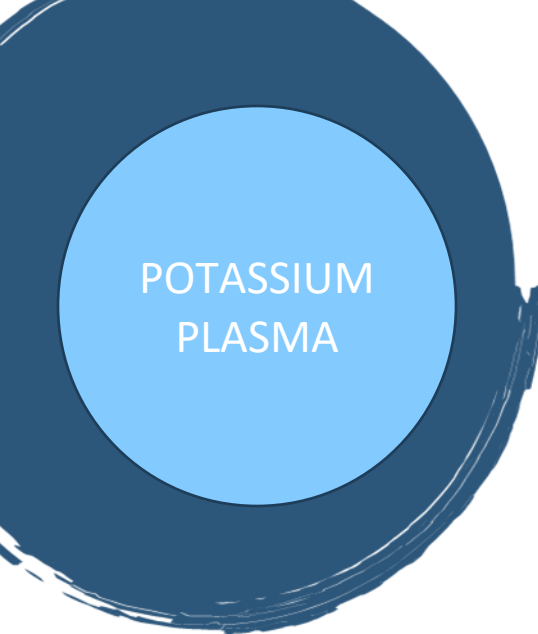
Reference Ranges:

Age	Range
0-3 months:	4.00-6.50 mmol/L
>3 months:	3.50-5.00 mmol/L

Critical Values	
Age	Range
0-3 months:	>6.5 mmol/L
>3 months:	<3.0 or >6.0 mmol/L

Interpretive Comments:

Useful for monitoring potassium status in patients on intravenous therapy, in diabetic ketoacidosis or on diuretics. Investigation of mineralocorticoid status, evaluation of electrolyte balance, acid-base disturbances, cardiac arrhythmia, muscular weakness, hepatic encephalopathy, GIT fluid losses and renal failure.



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Comments:

Hemolysis during collection, delay in separation, refrigeration of unseparated blood, marked leucocytosis and/or thrombocytosis and muscle activity of limb immediately prior to venipuncture may cause significant increase in potassium.