

# PREALBUMIN, SERUM

## Orderable - PALB

Turnaround Time: 4 hours

STAT: 1 hour

### Alternate Name(s):

Transthyretin  
PAB

### Specimen:

Adult	Pediatric
5 mL Gold top Vacutainer tube	0-2 years: 0.5 mL Gold top Microtainer 2-10 years: 3 mL Gold top Vacutainer tube
Serum from a 5 mL Gold top or 6 mL Red top is also acceptable.	

### Collection Information:

Serum preferred. Li-heparinized plasma may also be accepted. The use of Li-heparin plasma may lead to approximately 6% lower values.

Collect blood aseptically in a Vacutainer tube.

Avoid hemolysis.

### Reference Ranges:

Age	Range
0-<15 days:	0.00-0.11 g/L
15 days-<1 year	0.04-0.24 g/L
1-<5 years:	0.11-0.23 g/L
5-<13 years:	0.13-0.26 g/L
13-<16 years	0.17-0.31 g/L
16 years-<19 years:	0.16-0.33 g/L (Female)
16 years-<19 years:	0.20-0.35 g/L (Male)
Adult:	0.2-0.4 g/L



**Laboratory:**  
Core Lab



**Requisition:**  
GENERAL LABORATORY  
REQUISITION



**Method of Analysis:**  
Turbidimetry



**Test Schedule:**  
Daily

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### Interpretive Comments:

Prealbumin is a transport protein for thyroxin synthesized in the liver. It has a half-life of 2 days, much shorter than that of albumin. PAB is therefore a sensitive marker of nutritional status.

Serum concentrations of PAB are not significantly affected by hydration status as is albumin. Like albumin, PAB is a negative acute phase reactant and its serum concentration decreases in inflammation, malignancy, liver cirrhosis and protein-losing diseases of the gut or kidneys.

### Comments:

This test is used as a nutritional marker.

Turbidimetric assays not suitable for measurement of highly lipemic or hemolytic samples or samples containing high levels of circulating immune complexes. Intralipid causes artificially high prealbumin results.

### Storage and Shipment:

Specimen is stable for 6 months refrigerated or 1 year frozen at -20°C.