

TEST: C-REACTIVE PROTEIN**PRINCIPLE:**

The purpose is to quantitate serum levels of C-reactive protein (CRP). These measurements aid in the clinical diagnosis, assessment of disease activity, response to treatment, and follow-up in patients with various clinical conditions. Measurement of C-Reactive Protein aids in the evaluation of stress, trauma, infection, inflammation and surgery. These tests are measured by rate nephelometry. Rate nephelometry measures the rate of increase in light scattered from particles suspended in solution as a result of complexes formed during an antigen-antibody reaction.

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:

2 ml serum collected in a red top tube with no additive or in a serum separator tube (gel barrier). Serum may be separated from the clot. If serum samples are not assayed within 6 hours, samples should be stored at +2°C to +8°C. If serum samples are not assayed within 24 hours, they should be stored frozen at -15°C to -20°C. Frozen samples should be thawed only once. Analyte deterioration may occur in samples that are repeatedly frozen and thawed.

METHOD: Rate Nephelometry**REFERENCES:**

1. Burtis, C.A., Ashwood, E.R., Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry, 2nd Edition, W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, PA (1994).

Normal values:

CRP: < 0.8 mg/dl

Turnaround Time: One Week