



## Ammonia

<b>Alternate Name:</b>	NH <sub>3</sub>
<b>Performing Lab:</b>	New Hanover and Cape Fear
<b>Specimen Container:</b>	Green top tube (lithium heparin)
<b>Minimum Volume Required:</b>	1.0 mL
<b>Testing Availability</b>	<b>Routine:</b> 24 hours/day <b>Stat:</b> Yes
<b>Turnaround Time:</b>	Routine: 4 hours Stat: < 1 hour
<b>Special Handling:</b>	Specimen should be kept on ice and delivered to the laboratory immediately.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Specimen Stability:</b>	
<b>Reference Range:</b>	11 – 32 umol/L
<b>Critical Value:</b>	Neonates (0-28 days) >99 umol/L
<b>CPT Code:</b>	82140
<b>Testing Methodology:</b>	Colorimetric
<b>Causes for Specimen Rejection:</b>	Improper labeling Specimen not received on ice
<b>Other Comments:</b>	None
<b>Clinical Significance:</b>	Ammonia is one of the by-products of protein metabolism. Elevated blood ammonia levels have been associated with severe liver dysfunction such as hepatic encephalopathy, coma resulting from cirrhosis, severe hepatitis, reye's syndrome and drug hepatotoxicity.