

**Reporting Title:** UPG Decarboxylase, RBC  
**Performing Location:** Rochester

**Ordering Guidance:**  
Porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT) type I (sporadic), the most common form of PCT, exhibits normal erythrocyte enzyme activity. The preferred test for diagnosis is PQNU / Porphyrins, Quantitative, 24 Hour, Urine or PQNRU / Porphyrins, Quantitative, Random, Urine.

**Necessary Information:**  
Include a list of medications the patient is currently taking.

**Specimen Requirements:**  
**Patient Preparation:** Patient should abstain from alcohol for 24 hours prior to specimen collection. Abstinence from alcohol is essential for at least 24 hours as alcohol suppresses enzyme activity for 24 hours after ingestion.  
**Collection Container/Tube:**  
**Preferred:** Green top (sodium or lithium heparin)  
**Acceptable:** Lavender top (EDTA)  
**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial  
**Specimen Volume:** Washed erythrocyte suspension  
**Collection Instructions:** Collect and process whole blood specimen as follows:  
1. Transfer entire specimen to a 12-mL graduated centrifuge tube.  
2. Centrifuge specimen at 4 degrees C for 10 minutes at 2,000 rpm.  
3. Record volume of packed cells and the total volume of the specimen.  
4. Discard supernatant plasma.  
5. Wash erythrocytes 2 times by resuspension with 5 mL of cold 0.9% saline, discarding supernatant after each washing.  
6. Resuspend packed cells to the original total volume with 0.9% saline. Invert specimen gently to mix.

**Forms:**  
1. **New York Clients-Informed consent is required.** Document on the request form or electronic order that a copy is on file. The following documents are available:  
[-Informed Consent for Genetic Testing](#) (T576)  
[-Informed Consent for Genetic Testing-Spanish](#) (T826)  
2. If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Biochemical Genetics Test Request](#) (T798) with the specimen.

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Washed RBC	Frozen (preferred)	14 days	
	Refrigerated	14 days	
	Ambient	4 days	

**Result Codes:**

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
31892	UPG Decarboxylase, RBC	Alphanumeric	RU	49596-0

606381	Interpretation	Alphanumeric		59462-2
606382	Reviewed By	Alphanumeric		18771-6

LOINC® and CPT codes are provided by the performing laboratory.

Supplemental Report:

No

CPT Code Information:

82657

Reference Values:

- > or =1.00 RU (normal)
- 0.80-0.99 RU (indeterminate)
- <0.80 RU (indicative of PCT type II)
- RU = Relative Units