

Reporting Title: Vanillylmandelic Acid, Random, U

Performing Location: Rochester

**Ordering Guidance:**

In the past, this test has been used to screen for pheochromocytoma. However, vanillylmandelic acid (VMA) is not the analyte of choice to rule out a diagnosis of pheochromocytoma. Recommended tests for this purpose are:

- PMET / Metanephrines, Fractionated, Free, Plasma
- METAF / Metanephrines, Fractionated, 24 Hour, Urine
- CATU / Catecholamine Fractionation, Free, 24 Hour, Urine

**Necessary Information:**

1. Patient's age is required.
2. All patients receiving L-dopa should be identified to the laboratory when this test is ordered.
3. Bactrim may interfere with detection of the analyte. All patients taking Bactrim should be identified to the laboratory when this test is ordered.

**Specimen Requirements:**

**Patient Preparation:** Administration of L-dopa may falsely increase vanillylmandelic acid results; it should be discontinued 24 hours prior to specimen collection.

**Supplies:** Urine Tubes, 10 mL (T068)

**Collection Container/Tube:** Clean, plastic urine collection container

**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic, 10-mL urine tube

**Specimen Volume:** 5 mL

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Collect a random urine specimen.
2. Adjust the random urine pH to a level between 1 and 5 by adding 50% acetic acid or hydrochloric acid dropwise and checking the pH.

**Forms:**

[If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send an Oncology Test Request](#) (T729) with the specimen.

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Urine	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Frozen	180 days	

**Result Codes:**

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
60274	Vanillylmandelic Acid, Random, U	Alphanumeric	mg/g Cr	3124-5

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

**Supplemental Report:**

No

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**CPT Code Information:**

84585

**Reference Values:**

<1 year: <25.0 mg/g creatinine

1 year: <22.5 mg/g creatinine

2-4 years: <16.0 mg/g creatinine

5-9 years: <12.0 mg/g creatinine

10-14 years: <8.0 mg/g creatinine

> or =15 years (adults): <7.0 mg/g creatinine