Test Definition: CDUCR

Cadmium/Creatinine Ratio, Random, Urine

Overview

Useful For

Detecting exposure to cadmium, a toxic heavy metal, using random urine specimens

Profile Information

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
CDCU	Cadmium/Creatinine Ratio, U	No	Yes
CRETR	Creatinine, Random, U	No	Yes

Special Instructions

- Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport

Method Name

CDCU: Triple-Quadrupole Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS/MS)

CRETR: Enzymatic Colorimetric Assay

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Urine

Specimen Required

Patient Preparation: High concentrations of gadolinium and iodine are known to interfere with most metal tests. If either gadolinium- or iodine-containing contrast media has been administered, **a specimen should not be collected for 96 hours**.

Supplies: Urine Tubes, 10 mL (T068)

Collection Container/Tube: Clean, plastic urine container with no metal cap or glued insert

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic, 10-mL urine tube or clean, plastic aliquot container with no metal cap or glued insert

Specimen Volume: 3 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect urine a random urine specimen.
2. See Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport for complete instructions.

Specimen Minimum Volume

1.5 mL

Reject Due To

All specimens will be evaluated at Mayo Clinic Laboratories for test suitability.

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Urine	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	14 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Cadmium toxicity resembles that of the other heavy metals, including arsenic, mercury, and lead. The kidney is the primary organ affected Kidney dysfunction with proteinuria and slow onset (over a period of years) is the typical presentation. Measurable changes in proximal tubule function, such as decreased clearance of para-aminohippuric acid, also develop over several years and precede overt kidney failure.

Inhalation of cadmium vapor can cause nasal epithelial deterioration and pulmonary congestion resembling chronic emphysema.

For nonsmokers, food is the primary source of cadmium exposure. In general, leafy vegetables such as lettuce and spinach, potatoes, grains, peanuts, soybeans, and sunflower seeds contain high levels of cadmium. For smokers, tobacco smoke is the most common source of exposure is and has been implicated as the primary source of cadmium associated with reproductive toxicity in both men and women.

Chronic cadmium exposure can cause cumulative kidney damage. Cadmium excretion is proportional to creatinine unless kidney damage is present. Cadmium-induced kidney damage may be detected by increased cadmium excretion relative to creatinine.

For Occupational Safety and Health Administration-mandated workplace exposure monitoring (Fed Reg 57:42,102-142,463, September 1992), measure urine cadmium and creatinine and report results as mcg of cadmium per gram of creatinine.

Reference Values

CADMIUM/CREATININE:
0-17 years: Not established
> or =18 years: <0.6 mcg/g creatinine

CREATININE:
> or =18 years: 16-326 mg/dL
Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

Interpretation

Urine cadmium levels primarily reflect total body burden of cadmium. Cadmium excretion above 3.0 mcg/g creatinine indicates significant exposure to cadmium.

For occupational testing, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration cadmium standard is less than 3.0 mcg/g creatinine, and the biological exposure index is 5 mcg/g creatinine.

Cautions

Collection of urine specimens through a catheter frequently results in elevated values because rubber contains trace amounts of cadmium that are extracted as urine passes through the catheter.

Clinical Reference

1. deBurbure C, Buchet J-P, Leroyer A, et al. Renal and neurologic effects of cadmium, lead, mercury, and arsenic in children: Evidence of early effects and multiple interactions at environmental exposure levels. Environ Health Perspect. 2006;114(4):584-590
2. Schulz C, Angerer J, Ewers U, et al. Revised and new reference values for environmental pollutants in urine or blood of children in Germany derived from the German Environmental Survey on Children 2003-2006(GerESIV) Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2009;212(6):637-647
3. Occupational Safety and Health Administration: Cadmium exposure and control. US Department of Labor; Updated September 2, 2008. Accessed October 12, 2026. Available at osha.gov/SLTC/cadmium/evaluation.html
4. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: Toxicological profile for cadmium. US Department of Health and Human Services; October 2026. Accessed October 12, 2026. Available at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp5.pdf
5. Strathmann FG, Blum LM. Toxic elements. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, Burnham CD, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:chap 44
6. Wang M, Chen Z, Song W, Hong D, Huang L, Li Y. A review on cadmium exposure in the population and intervention strategies against cadmium toxicity. Bull Environ Contam Toxicol. 2021;106(1):65-74. doi:10.1007/s00128-020-03088-1

Performance

Method Description

Cadmium:
The metal of interest is analyzed by triple-quadrupole inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry. (Unpublished Mayo method)

Creatinine:
This enzymatic method is based on the conversion of creatinine with the aid of creatininase, creatinase, and sarcosine oxidase to form glycine, formaldehyde, and hydrogen peroxide. Catalyzed by peroxidase the liberated hydrogen peroxide reacts with 4-aminophenazone and HTIB (2,4,6-triiodo03-hydroxybenzoic acid) to form a quinone imine chromogen. The color intensity of the quinone imine chromogen formed is directly proportional to the creatinine concentration in the reaction mixture.(Package insert: Creatinine plus ver.2. Roche Diagnostics; 07/2024)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed
Monday through Friday

Report Available
2 to 4 days

Specimen Retention Time
14 days

Performing Laboratory Location
Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Superior Drive

Fees & Codes

Fees
- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information
82300
82570

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
CDUCR	Cadmium/Creat Ratio, Random,U	13471-8

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
CRETR	Creatinine, Random, U	2161-8
608902	Cadmium/Creatinine Ratio, U	13471-8