



# Test Definition: RCHLU

Chloride, Random, Urine

## Overview

### Useful For

An indicator of fluid balance and acid-base homeostasis

### Method Name

Potentiometric, Indirect Ion-Selective Electrode (ISE)

### NY State Available

No

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

Urine

### Specimen Required

**Supplies:** Sarstedt 5 mL Aliquot Tube (T914)

**Container/Tube:** Plastic, 5-mL tube

**Specimen Volume:** 5 mL

#### Collection Instructions:

1. Collect a random urine specimen.
2. No preservative.

### Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Renal Diagnostics Test Request](#) (T830) with the specimen.

### Specimen Minimum Volume

1 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)	14 days	
	Ambient	7 days	
	Frozen	30 days	

## Clinical & Interpretive

### Clinical Information

Chloride is the major extracellular anion. Its precise function in the body is not well understood; however, it is involved in maintaining osmotic pressure, proper body hydration, and electric neutrality. In the absence of acid-base disturbances, chloride concentrations in plasma will generally follow those of sodium.

Since urine is the primary mode of elimination of ingested chloride, urinary chloride excretion during steady state conditions will reflect ingested chloride, which predominantly is in the form of sodium chloride. However, under certain clinical conditions, the renal excretion of chloride may not reflect intake. For instance, during states of extracellular volume depletion, urine chloride (and sodium) excretion is reduced.

### Reference Values

No established reference values

Random urine chloride may be interpreted in conjunction with serum chloride, using both values to calculate fractional excretion of chloride.

The calculation for fractional excretion (FE) of chloride (Cl) is

$$FE(Cl) = (Cl [urine] \times Creat [serum]) / (Cl [serum] \times Creat [urine]) \times 100$$

### Interpretation

Urine sodium and chloride excretion are similar and, under steady state conditions, both the urinary sodium and chloride excretion reflect the intake of sodium chloride. During states of extracellular volume depletion, low values indicate appropriate renal reabsorption of these ions, whereas elevated values indicate inappropriate excretion (renal wasting). Urinary sodium and chloride excretion may be dissociated during metabolic alkalosis with volume depletion where urine sodium excretion may be high (due to renal excretion of sodium bicarbonate) while urine chloride excretion remains appropriately low.

### Cautions

High urine values of other halide ions (eg, bromide, fluoride, iodide) may lead to falsely high readings on the chloride ion-selective electrode (ISE).

### Clinical Reference

1. Delaney MP, Lamb EJ: Kidney disease. In: Rifai N, Horvath AR, Wittwer CT, eds: Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. 6th ed. 2018:1308-1309
2. Toffaletti J: Electrolytes. In: Dufour DR, Rifai N, eds. Professional Practice in Clinical Chemistry: A Review. AACC Press; 1993
3. Kamel KS, Ethier JH, Richardson RM, et al: Urine electrolytes and osmolality: when and how to use them. Am J Nephrol. 1990;10:89-102

## Performance

### Method Description

An ion-selective electrode (ISE) makes use of the unique properties of certain membrane materials to develop an electrical potential (electromotive force: EMF) for the measurements of ions in solution. The electrode has a selective membrane in contact with both the test solution and an internal filling solution. The internal filling solution contains the test ion at a fixed concentration. Because of the particular nature of the membrane, the test ions will closely associate with the membrane on each side. The membrane EMF is determined by the difference in concentration of the test ion in the test solution and the internal filling solution. (Package insert: ISE indirect Na, K, Cl for Gen.2. Roche Diagnostics; V13.0 04/2016)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) Performed**

Monday through Saturday

**Report Available**

Same day/1 to 2 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

7 days

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville Clinical Lab

**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 has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

**CPT Code Information**

82436

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
RCHLU	Chloride, Random, U	2078-4

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
RCHLU	Chloride, Random, U	2078-4