



# Test Definition: PBCU

Lead/Creatinine Ratio, Urine

## Overview

### Useful For

Detecting clinically significant lead exposure using random urine specimens

This test is **not a substitute for** blood lead screening.

### Special Instructions

- [Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport](#)

### Method Name

Only orderable as part of profile. For more information see:

-PBU CR / Lead/Creatinine Ratio, Random, Urine

-HMUCR / Heavy Metal/Creatinine Ratio, with Reflex, Random, Urine

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

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

Urine

### Specimen Required

Only orderable as part of profile. For more information see:

-PBU CR / Lead/Creatinine Ratio, Random, Urine

-HMUCR / Heavy Metal/Creatinine Ratio, with Reflex, Random, Urine

### 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 | 28 days |  |
|  | Frozen  | 28 days |  |

## Clinical & Interpretive

### Clinical Information

Increased urine lead concentration per gram of creatinine indicates significant lead exposure. Measurement of urine lead concentration per gram of creatinine before and after chelation therapy have been used as an indicator of significant lead exposure. An increase in lead concentration per gram of creatinine in the post-chelation specimen of up to 6 times the concentration in the pre-chelation specimen is normal.

Blood lead is the best clinical correlation of toxicity.

For more information see PBDV / Lead, Venous, with Demographics, Blood.

### Reference Values

Only orderable as part of profile. For more information see:

-PBU CR / Lead/Creatinine Ratio, Random, Urine

-HMUCR / Heavy Metal/Creatinine Ratio, with Reflex, Random, Urine

0-17 years: Not established

> or =18 years: <2 mcg/g creatinine

### Interpretation

Urinary excretion of less than 4 mcg/g creatinine is not associated with any significant lead exposure.

Urinary excretion greater than 4 mcg/g creatinine is usually associated with pallor, anemia, and other evidence of lead toxicity.

Measurements of urinary lead levels have been used to assess lead exposure. However, like lead blood, urinary lead excretion mainly reflects recent exposure and thus shares many of the same limitations for assessing lead body burden or long-term exposure.(1,2)

Urinary lead concentration increases exponentially with blood lead and can exhibit relatively high intra-individual variability, even at similar blood lead concentrations.(3,4)

### Cautions

No significant cautionary statements

### Clinical Reference

1. Sakai T. Biomarkers of lead exposure. *Ind Health*. 2000;38(2):127-142. doi:10.2486/indhealth.38.127
2. Skerfving S. Biological monitoring of exposure to inorganic lead. In: Clarkson TW, Friberg L, Nordberg GF, Sager PR, eds. *Biological Monitoring of Toxic Metals*. Rochester Series on Environmental Toxicity. Springer; 1988:169-197
3. Gulson BL, Jameson CW, Mahaffey KR, et al. Relationships of lead in breast milk to lead in blood, urine, and diet of the infant and mother. *Environ Health Perspect*. 1998;106(10):667-667. doi:10.1289/ehp.98106667

4. Skerfving S, Ahlgren L, Christoffersson JO. Metabolism of inorganic lead in man. *Nutr Res* 1985;Suppl 1:601-607
5. Kosnett MJ, Wedeen RP, Rotherberg SJ, et al. Recommendations for medical management of adult lead exposure. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2007;115(3):463-471. doi:10.1289/ehp.9784
6. de Burbane C, Buchet JP, 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. doi:10.1289/ehp.8202
7. 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
8. Hauptman M, Bruccoleri R, Woolf AD. An update on childhood lead poisoning. *Clin Pediatr Emerg Med.* 2017;18(3):181-192. doi:10.1016/j.cpem.2017.07.010

## Performance

### Method Description

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

### 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.

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**CPT Code Information**

83655

**LOINC® Information**

| Test ID | Test Order Name          | Order LOINC® Value |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| PBCU    | Lead/Creatinine Ratio, U | 13466-8            |

| Result ID | Test Result Name         | Result LOINC® Value |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 608904    | Lead/Creatinine Ratio, U | 13466-8             |