**CRP**

**CPT Code:** 86140  
**Order Code:** C1323  
**ABN Requirement:** No  
**Synonyms:** C-Reactive Protein  
**Specimen:** Serum  
**Volume:** 1.0 mL  
**Minimum Volume:** 0.5 mL  
**Container:** Gel-barrier tube (SST, Tiger Top)

**Collection:**

1. Collect and label sample according to standard protocols.  
2. Gently invert tube 5 times immediately after draw. DO NOT SHAKE.  
3. Allow blood to clot 30 minutes.  
4. Centrifuge at 1300 rcf for 10 minutes.

**Transport:** Store serum at 2°C to 8°C after collection and ship the same day per packaging instructions provided with the Cleveland HeartLab, Inc. shipping box.

**Stability:**

- **Ambient (15-25°C):** 7 days  
- **Refrigerated (2-8°C):** 30 days  
- **Frozen (-20°C):** 1 year  
- **Deep Frozen (-70°C):** 1 year

**Causes for Rejection:** Specimens other than serum; improper labeling; samples not stored properly; samples older than stability limits; grossly hemolyzed or lipemic specimens

**Methodology:** Nephelometry (NEPH)

**Turn Around Time:** 4 days

**Reference Range:**

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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>mg/dL</th>
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Clinical Significance: Increased CRP levels are found in inflammatory conditions including: bacterial infection, rheumatic fever, active arthritis, myocardial infarction, malignancies, and in the post-operative state. This test cannot detect the relatively small elevations of CRP that are associated with increased cardiovascular risk.

Limitations: Oral contraceptives, IUDs, pregnancy, and menstruation may raise CRP levels. Levels are lowest during ovulation.