**Prealbumin**

**CPT Code:** 84134  
**Order Code:** C1543  
**ABN Requirement:** No  
**Synonyms:** Transthyretin, Thyroxine Binding Prealbumin  
**Specimen:** Serum  
**Volume:** 1.0 mL  
**Minimum Volume:** 0.5 mL  
**Container:** Gel-barrier tube (SST, Tiger Top)

**Collection:**

**Serum:**

1. Collect and label sample according to standard protocols.  
2. Gently invert tube 5 times immediately after draw. DO NOT SHAKE.  
3. Let tube stand in a vertical position to allow blood to clot 30 minutes.  
4. Centrifuge at 1300 rcf for 10 minutes at room temperature.

**Transport:** Store serum at 2-8°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):** 14 days  
- **Frozen (-20°C):** 4 months  
- **Deep Frozen (-70°C):** 4 months

**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:** 2 to 4 days

**Reference Range:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>mg/dL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤5 days</td>
<td>6-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 days - 12 months</td>
<td>Not Established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 years</td>
<td>14-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9 years</td>
<td>15-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-13 years</td>
<td>20-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-17 years</td>
<td>22-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Males</td>
<td>21-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Females</td>
<td>17-34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clinical Significance:** Prealbumin is decreased in protein-calorie malnutrition, liver disease, and acute inflammation. It may be used as an indicator of nutritional requirements and response to therapy during total parenteral nutrition and as a biochemical marker of nutrition adequacy in premature infants.