Haptoglobin (Serum)	
Description	Haptoglobin is an acute phase and transport protein, synthesised in hepatocytes. It is a serum glycoprotein which binds free haemoglobin. The haptoglobin-Hb complex is cleared by the reticuloendothelial system.
Indication	Intravascular haemolysis, evaluation of acute inflammatory processes and phenotype differentiation in paternity diagnostics.
Additional Info	Haptoglobin is a protein produced by the liver. Its purpose is to find and attach itself to free hemoglobin in the blood. This forms a complex that is rapidly cleared out of the circulation by the liver for destruction and recycling. Complex formation and the extremely rapid elimination from the circulating blood prevents the occurrence of haemoglobinuria and excess renal loss of iron. When large numbers of RBCs are destroyed, haptoglobin concentrations in the blood will temporarily decrease as the consumption of haptoglobin exceeds production by the liver. Haptoglobin levels may be low in Gilbert's disease and is thought to reflect occult haemolysis.
Concurrent Tests	N/A
Dietary Requirements	N/A
Interpretation	Haptoglobin is depleted from serum in states of intravascular haemolysis. Haptoglobin rises as part of the acute phase response.
Collection Conditions	Time and date of sampling should be provided. Samples should not be collected from sites where a danger of contamination from intravenous infusion exists.
Frequency of testing	As required