

Mercury (Urine)	
Description	Mercury (Urine)
Indication	Acute or chronic poisoning.
Additional Info	<p>Urine mercury is the preferred specimen for determining mercury vapour exposure and inorganic mercury exposure. Whole blood is the preferred specimen for determining organic mercury intoxication (e.g. methyl mercury from consuming contaminated seafood).</p> <p>Acute poisoning can occur due to occupational exposure or inadvertent consumption. Chronic poisoning can occur by exposure to fungicides or prolonged use of dermatological ointments.</p> <p>Acute symptoms may include burning in the mouth and respiratory symptoms, decreased urine output, increased heart rate and GI disturbances. Chronic symptoms include disturbances of the CNS, kidneys and lungs.</p>
Concurrent Tests	N/A
Dietary Requirements	N/A
Interpretation	<p>In the unexposed population urine Mercury should be: <50 nmol/L or <6 nmol/mmol creatinine.</p> <p>The occupational exposure limit for urine Mercury is <20 nmol/mmol of creatinine.</p>
Collection Conditions	Random MSU or 24hour urine collection into a plain container (no preservative).
Frequency of testing	As required.