

## Detection of Free Thyroxine in Human Serum with Roche e801

**Test Name:** Immunoassay for the in vitro quantitative determination of free thyroxine (FT4) in human serum and plasma.

**Method Name:** In the Elecsys FT4 II assay a T4 specific antibody labeled with a ruthenium complex is used to determine the free thyroxine concentration.

**Results:** Technical Range: 0.101-7.77 ng/dL  
Reportable Range: 0.36-6.7 ng/dL

### Reference Ranges:

0-23 Months	0.88-1.48 ng/dL
2-12 Years	0.81-1.35 ng/dL
13-20 Years	0.78-1.33 ng/dL
≥ 21 Years	0.80-1.50 ng/dL

**Clinical Significance:** Thyroxine (T4) is the main thyroid hormone secreted into the bloodstream by the thyroid gland. Together with triiodothyronine (T3) it plays a vital role in regulating the body's metabolic rate, influences the cardiovascular system, growth, and bone metabolism, and is important for normal development of gonadal functions and nervous system.

T4 circulates in the bloodstream as an equilibrium mixture of free and serum bound hormone. Free T4 (fT4) is the unbound and biologically active form, which represents only 0.03 % of the total T4. The remaining T4 is inactive and bound to serum proteins such as thyroxine binding globulin, TBG (75 %), pre-albumin (15 %), and albumin (10 %).

The determination of free T4 has the advantage of being independent of changes in the concentrations and binding properties of these binding proteins; additional determination of a binding parameter (T uptake, TBG) is therefore unnecessary. Therefore free T4 is a useful tool in clinical routine diagnostics for the assessment of the thyroid status. It should be measured together with TSH if thyroid disorders are suspected and is also suitable for monitoring thyrosuppressive therapy.

A variety of methods are available for estimating the free thyroid hormone levels. The direct measurement of fT4 and fT3 via equilibrium dialysis or ultrafiltration is mainly used as a reference method for standardizing, the immunological procedures generally used for routine diagnostic purposes.

**Submission Criteria:** For specimen collection and preparation, only use suitable tubes or collection containers.

Only the specimens listed below were tested and found acceptable.

Serum

Plasma: Li-heparin and K<sub>2</sub>-EDTA plasma

Do not use fluoride plasma

The sample types listed were tested with a selection of sample collection tubes that were commercially available at the time of testing, therefore not all available tubes of all manufacturers were tested. Sample collection systems from various manufacturers may contain differing materials which could affect the test results in some cases. When processing samples in primary tubes (sample collection systems), follow the instructions of the tube manufacturer.

Storage and Stability: 30 days at -20°C  
7 days at 2-8°C  
5 days at 20-25 °C  
Freeze only once.

**Rejection Criteria:**

Rejection criteria include but are not limited to:

1. Specimens containing fibrin or clots.
2. Excessive platelet clumping
3. Leaking specimens
4. Substandard mixing or collection
5. Expired or improperly stored collection tubes.
6. Improperly filled tubes based on collection tube manufacturer's guidelines.
7. Contaminated specimens (IV fluid, foreign particles, etc.)
8. Specimens not analyzed within the appropriate time frame.
9. Samples not shipped at appropriate temperature.
10. Samples without 2 proper identifiers or samples having identifiers that do not match the electronic or paper lab requisition.

**Authorization:**

Diagnostic testing can only be performed with approval from an authorized provider/agency.

**Turn Around Time:**

1 day.

## Instructions for Serum Specimen Submission

### General Information

The detection of free thyroxine in human serum and plasma is performed using a Roche cobas i58 analyzer. However, serum specimens are preferred.

Specimens must be collected and stored at 20-25 °C if to be analyzed within 5 days, at 2-8°C if to be analyzed within 7 days and stored at -20°C if to be analyzed within 30 days. Please be aware that storing specimens at ≤ -70°C (≤ -94°F) is not permissible.

**Specimens MUST be received at Reditus Laboratories within 5 days of collection.**

### Collection Instructions for Serum Specimen

1. Do not use expired collection tubes. Store collection tubes as per manufacturers recommendations. Use standard venipuncture practices for collecting samples. Filled gold top serum tubes are preferred.
2. Ensure that the patient's name, date-of-birth, and time/date of collection are recorded on the specimen tube along with the name or initials of the individual collecting the sample.
3. Complete all the demographic information on a sample requisition form through the approved electronic submission process
4. Refrigerate the specimen between 2-8°C (36-46°F) and ship or courier the specimen(s) within 48 hours.
5. The specimen(s) *must* be received at the laboratory **no later than** 48 hours *from the time of collection*.
  - a. **Avoid shipping specimens over weekends or holidays** as they may not be received at the laboratory and cold-packs will not maintain the required 2-8°C (36-46°F) specimen temperature.
  - b. Ensure that specimens shipped by commercial carrier are shipped with **overnight delivery**. If shipping on a Friday for Saturday delivery, ***you must include Saturday Delivery*** during shipment, or the specimens will not be received until the following non-holiday business day. Failure to receive specimens within 24 hours of shipment will result in specimens being rejected from testing.
6. For any questions pertaining to sample collection, storage, or shipping, please contact the Reditus Laboratories using the below contact information.

### Instructions for Specimen Transport

1. **Messenger/Courier by ground transport.** Place specimen(s) into a biohazard labeled bag and seal securely. Place the test requisition(s) on the outside of the biohazard labeled bag. Place the sealed biohazard bag and test requisition(s) inside the shipping container. Place cold packs, which have been frozen for at least 24 hours, in the leak-proof outer container. The shipping container must be rigid, such as a Styrofoam cooler, and labeled with the UN 3373 Biological Substance Category B marking. Close securely.
2. **Commercial carrier by ground/air transport.** Place the specimen(s) inside a biohazard labeled bag and seal securely. Place the test requisition(s) on the outside of the biohazard labeled bag. Place the sealed bag and completed test requisitions(s) inside the outer shipping container. Place cold packs, which have been frozen for at least 24 hours, in the leak-proof outer container. Label the outer shipping container with Reditus Laboratories address listed below. Complete the return address section to include the name of the person shipping the package, business name and address, and a business phone number. The shipping container must include the UN3373 Biological Substance Category B marking.
3. *Ship specimens by overnight delivery* to the attention of Clinical Chemistry at Reditus Laboratories. This can be accomplished by use of local courier, shipping corporations or U.S. Postal Service.
  - a. **If specimens are shipped on a Friday for Saturday delivery, you must include/indicate Saturday delivery** during shipment, or the specimens will not be received until the following non-holiday business day. Failure to receive specimens within 24 hours of shipment will result

- in specimens being rejected from testing.
4. The specimen(s) must be received at the laboratory **no later than** 48 hours *from the time of collection* and 24 hours from the time of shipment. Do not ship specimens over weekends or holidays as they will not be received, and cold-packs will not maintain the required 2-8°C (36-46°F) specimen temperature.

**NOTE:** Testing may be delayed, or specimens may be considered UNSATISFACTORY if the above instructions are not followed or the requisition form is not filled out completely. If there are any questions about specimen collection, handling, or shipping please contact the Reditus Laboratories to speak with laboratory personnel.

Ship specimens by a local courier or overnight by commercial carrier to the designated laboratories indicated below.

**Send to:** Reditus Laboratories  
200 Enterprise Drive  
Pekin, IL 61554

**Phone:** (469) 498-0222

**Website:** <https://www.redituslabs.com/>