

---

**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** METHOTREXATE POLYGLUTAMATE

---

***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** MTXP

**Synonyms:** Advise MTX PG

**CPT Codes:** 80204 – Chromatography Quant Mult (Quantification of intracellular methotrexate polyglutamates)

**Test Includes:** Measures red blood cell methotrexate polyglutamates (MTX PGs), the active metabolites of methotrexate.

---

***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Advise PG testing service is a specialized blood test that helps measure how well your body metabolizes methotrexate (MTX). MTX is a widely used medication for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and may be prescribed alone or in combination with other therapies. However, not everyone responds to MTX therapy in the same way, so some patients need a higher dose while others do fine on a lower dose.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Exagen Diagnostics (EXA: 4010)

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 7 – 10 days

**Special Instructions:** N/A

---

***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Whole Blood

**Container:** Lavender top (EDTA) tube (provided in kit from Sendouts or substitute the standard lab 5 mL EDTA tube if necessary)

**Draw Volume:** 5 mL blood

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume

**Collection:** Routine blood collection

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Do NOT centrifuge specimen. Send in original collection container with a **refrigerated** ice pack (ice pack must NOT be frozen). Ship specimens M-F, overnight priority delivery, using label provided in the Advise kit. If shipment is delayed, store refrigerated. The specimen may be stored up to 4 days before shipping.

Exagen Phone: 1-888-452-4522

<http://www.avisetest.com>

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

---

***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:**

Therapeutic:	>60 nmol/L
Intermediate:	20.0 – 60.0 nmol/L
Sub-therapeutic:	<20 nmol/L

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** N/A

**Methodology:** Liquid chromatographic method with post column photo-oxidation technique

**References:** [Exagen Diagnostics Advise](#) December 2023

**Updates:** 12/27/2023: Removed outdated shipping address; updated packaging information to clarify ice pack must be refrigerated, not frozen; updated CPT code.