

Test	Eosin-5-Maleimide Assay (EMA)
Common Abbreviations	EMA
Profile	EMA
Clinical indication	Eosin -5-maleimide is a fluorescent dye that reacts to bind covalently to band 3 protein in the red cell membrane. Analysis by flow cytometry measures the fluorescent intensity of labelled intact red cells. This is now considered as the Gold Standard for the diagnosis of Hereditary Spherocytosis .
Specimen type	Whole blood
Sample type	EDTA sample
Minimum volume	1 Adult EDTA sample (minimum 0.5mL)
Special precautions	Please note : Appointments for samples to be taken should be made in the afternoon so that they can be transported to the Royal Victoria Hospital during the afternoon/evening/overnight period and be tested on the following morning. The laboratory needs to be contacted with the patient information when a sample is expected
Stability	24 hours
Turn-around time	7 days
Referral Laboratory	Flow Cytometry Department Department of Blood Sciences Level 3 Leazes Wing Royal Victoria Infirmary Queen Victoria Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4LP
Reference interval	Details provided by referral laboratory
Limitations	Not specified