



PhenX Measure: Aspartate Aminotransferase (#811200)

PhenX Protocol: Aspartate Aminotransferase Level (#811201)

Date of Interview/Examination (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

The following is a summary version of the full National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2011-2012 protocol.

Exclusion Criteria

Persons will be excluded from this component if they:

- Report that they have hemophilia; or
- Report that they have received cancer chemotherapy in the last 4 weeks

SP = Sample Person.

1. Do you have hemophilia?

1 Yes

2 No

7 Refused

9 Don't Know

If the SP answers "Yes," the SP is excluded from the blood draw.

If SP answers "No" or "Don't Know," blood is drawn from the SP.

2. Have you received cancer chemotherapy in the past four weeks or do you anticipate such therapy in the next four weeks?

1 Yes

2 No

7 Refused

9 Don't Know

If the SP answers "Yes," the SP is excluded from the blood draw.

If SP answers "No" or "Don't Know," blood is drawn from the SP.

Venipuncture Procedures

Editor's Note: Please review chapter 4 of the *Laboratory Procedures Manual* from the 2011-2012 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) for a full description of phlebotomy procedures. This manual is posted [here](#), and is also available at the NHANES website: [2011-2012 NHANES Laboratory Procedures Manual](#).

Venipuncture should generally be performed using the median cubital, cephalic, or basilic veins in the left arm unless this arm is unsuitable. If the veins in the left arm are unsuitable, look for suitable veins on the right arm. If the veins in the antecubital space on both arms are not suitable, then look for veins in the forearm or dorsal side of the hand on the left arm/hand and then the right arm/hand.

Recording the Results of the Venipuncture Procedure

Immediately after completing the venipuncture, record the results of the blood draw, the reasons for a tube not being drawn according to the protocol, and any comments about the venipuncture.

Blood Processing

Please review chapter 8 of the *Laboratory Procedures Manual* from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2011-2012 for a full description of blood processing procedures: [2011-2012 NHANES Laboratory Procedures Manual](#).

- Allow the blood to clot by setting aside for 30 to 45 minutes at room temperature. Do not clot for more than an hour.
- Centrifuge the tube at room temperature to separate the serum and aliquot into an appropriate storage tube.
- Determine if the serum is hemolyzed, turbid, lipemic, or icteric. If so, enter a comment to describe the serum.

Laboratory Assay for Red Blood Cell Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)

The Sickle Cell Disease Cardiovascular, Pulmonary, and Renal Working Group notes that there are a number of different assays and instruments that are appropriate to measure the concentration of red blood cell aspartate aminotransferase (AST). Once an assay is chosen for a particular study, the Working Group recommends that no changes in the protocol be made over the course of the study. To aid comparability, the Working Group recommends that the investigator record the make and manufacturer of equipment used and the repeatability and coefficients of variation for the assay.

Reference Ranges for Red Blood Cell Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST):

Age (years)	IU/L
0-6	18-63
6-10	21-44
10-20	13-38
>20	13-33