Testing Algorithm:

If the cryoglobulin has a result other than negative, then immunofixation will be performed at an additional charge (CPT-86334). Positive Cryoglobulins of >0.1mL of precipitate will be typed once.

Quantitation & immunotyping will not be performed on positive Cryofibrinogen.

Clinical Information:

Mayo Medical Laboratories does not offer testing for the Cryofibinogen alone.

Cryofibrinogens are complexes of fibrin and fibrinogen that precipitate out of plasma in the cold. Some of the clinical features that are associated with cryoglobulins also may be associated with cryofibrinogenemia. It is therefore important to perform both precipitin tests.

Useful for:

- Evaluating patients with vasculitis, glomerulonephritis, and lymphoproliferative diseases.
- Evaluating patients with macroglobulinemia or myeloma in whom symptoms occur with cold exposure.

Cautions:

- Failure to follow specimen handling instructions may cause false-negative results.
- EDTA plasma and serum are required. Specimens must be labeled appropriately as serum or plasma.
- Not useful for general screening of a population without clinical suspicion of cryoglobulinemia.
- Volume of serum is critical and test will not be performed on serum specimens of <3.0 ml on pediatric patients and <5.0 ml serum in adults.
  - Small (trace) quantities of cryoprecipitate can cause serious clinical symptoms. These quantities can be missed if an insufficient volume of specimen is provided.

Note:

Analysis cannot be performed with <3 mL of serum. Smaller volumes are insufficient to detect clinically important trace (mixed) cryoglobulins. Less than 3 mL will require draw of a new specimen.

Label specimen appropriately (serum & plasma).