



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Provider Staff
FROM: Valerie Bush, PhD
DATE: March 28, 2014
RE: Rheumatoid Factor Test Change

Effective March 25, 2014 at 10 AM, the Clinical Laboratory will be changing Rheumatoid Factor (RF) methods of analysis. The new method provides a quantitative result for IgM RF instead of a semi-quantitative titer. Because of this, results will be reported with the following reference range.

EPIC Order Codes: RFIGM, LAB206

Reference range is: 0 - 15 IU/mL

However, a negative result does not exclude rheumatoid arthritis. Approximately 25 % of patients with a diagnosed case of rheumatoid arthritis may present with a negative result for RF. RF can occur in other rheumatic and non-rheumatic diseases, i.e. connective tissue disorders, hepatitis, endocarditis, and parasitic or viral infections. With increasing age there is also an increase in the ratio of RF positive findings so interpret with other clinical symptoms.

The assay performance has not been established/tested for pediatric population.

Specimen requirements remain as serum from gold or red top tubes.

Please contact the laboratory with any questions you may have.