

Legacy Laboratory Services

Legacy Lab Alert

An Important Update from Legacy Laboratory Services

September 2017

Changes to Zinc Protoporphyrin Testing

Effective October 17, 2017, Legacy Laboratory Services will update Zinc Protoporphyrin testing, including reference ranges. Results and method will remain the same, but the following changes will occur:

- The current test mnemonic will change from **FEP-WB to ZPP**, but the method does not change. This will help clarify the analyte we have always measured, which is zinc protoporphyrin and not free erythrocyte protoporphyrin. The mnemonic, FEP-WB, will no longer be available.
- The orderable, Zinc Protoporphyrin, will contain two components instead of one. Zinc protoporphyrin will be reported in both $\mu\text{mol ZPP/mol Heme}$ and $\mu\text{g/dL}$ with corresponding reference ranges. The CDC and other laboratories report reference ranges using both $\mu\text{mol ZPP/mol Heme}$ and $\mu\text{g/dL}$.¹
- **Reference range for the current Zinc Protoporphyrin will change from 10 – 40 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ to 0 – 37 $\mu\text{g/dL}$.** This is consistent with CDC recommendations at a hematocrit of 42%.¹
- An interpretive statement will be added to all results since zinc protoporphyrin (ZPP) and zinc protoporphyrin to heme ratio (ZPPH) are affected by the patient's hematocrit. ***“Legacy reports ZPP and ZPPH assuming a hematocrit of 42%. Interpret results with caution if the patient's hematocrit is significantly different (i.e., pediatric or anemic patients).”***
- Stability of EDTA whole blood at Room Temperature and Refrigerated will increase (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Changes to Zinc Protoporphyrin – Changes are indicated by red font.

Name		NEW (Starts 10/17/17)	Current (Prior to 10/17/17)
		Zinc Protoporphyrin	Zinc Protoporphyrin
Mnemonic		ZPP	FEP-WB
Stability	Room Temp (18-26°C)	14 days	24 hours
	Refrigerated (2-8°C)	20 days	7 days
	Frozen (< -20°C)	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
Reference Ranges		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zinc Protoporphyrin: 0-37 $\mu\text{g/dL}$• Zinc Protoporphyrin to Heme Ratio: 0-69 $\mu\text{mol ZPP/mol Heme}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zinc Protoporphyrin: 10-40 $\mu\text{g/dL}$• Zinc Protoporphyrin to Heme Ratio: Not currently reported

For additional information, please contact your account representative, client services or consult our website:
Legacy Laboratory Client Services: 503-413-1234, 877-270-5566, www.legacyhealth.org/labservices

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). *Preventing Lead Poisoning in Young Children: Chapter 6*, October 1, 1991.