Legacy Laboratory Services

Serum Folate Reference Range Change

December 2011

As of January 16, 2012, Legacy Laboratory Services will begin using Beckman Coulter's new re-standardized Folate assay. The assay calibrators, previously standardized to USP reference material, have been restandardized by measuring for accuracy to World Health Organization (WHO) International Standards. All Beckman laboratory clients are required to make this change.

Our laboratory has evaluated and verified the new Folate assay for serum. The following changes will occur:

- Patient serum results will shift upward by approximately 30-45%.
- Serum reference ranges will change.

Interpretation	New Assay	Previous Assay
Deficient	0-3.9 ng/mL 0-5.2 ng/mL	
Borderline	4.0-5.8 ng/mL	n/a
Optimal	≥ 5.9 ng/mL	≥ 5.3 ng/mL

• Limit of detection is raised from 0.5 ng/mL to 1.0 ng/mL.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Legacy Laboratory Services. Contact information is listed below.

Serum Folate result <4.0 ng/mL indicates deficiency.

For additional information, contact:

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Collection Guidelines

Conceilor Guidelines			
Description	Folate, serum		
Order Code	FOL		
Patient Preparation	Fasting (8-14 hours) specimens are preferred. Samples should be collected from fasting individuals, since recent food intake may appreciably increase folic acid levels.		
Collect	Serum, one 5.0 mL gold (SST) or 7.0 mL red top tube		
Handling	Allow serum to clot completely at room temperature (minimum: 30 minutes). Centrifuge and separate serum from cells within 2 hours of collection. PROTECT FROM LIGHT.		
Preferred Volume	1.0 mL serum		
Minimum Volume	0.5 mL serum (whole blood 1.3 mL minimum draw)		
Transport	Frozen (-20°C), Protect from light		
Rejection Criteria	The following specimens will not be accepted: Grossly hemolyzed specimens Plasma		
Stability (after separation from cells)	Temperature	Time Period	
	Ambient (20-25°C)	2 hours	
	Refrigerated (2-8°C)	3 days	
	Frozen (≤-20°C)	2 months	
Reference Ranges	Folate (ng/mL)	Interpretation	
	0-3.9	Deficient	
	4.0-5.8	Borderline	
	≥ 5.9	Optimal	