

Date: January 26, 2012

To: Edmonton Zone, Former East Central and Aspen area:
Physicians, Nursing

From: AHS Laboratory Services

Re: Normal Range Change for Folate Assay

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

Effective February 9, 2012, a restandardized Beckman Coulter folate assay will be implemented at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Why this is important:

The calibrators have been changed to reflect the World Health Organization (WHO) International Standard: (WHO International Standard 03/178).

On average, patient samples will increase between 30 to 45% with this restandardization. Our normal range changes from >12 nmol/L to >13 nmol/L. According to the WHO, folate concentrations less than 10 nmol/L are considered deficient.¹

¹Conclusions of a WHO Technical Consultation on folate and vitamin B12 deficiencies. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. The United Nations University, 2008; 29(2): S238-246

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. G. Cembrowski, Director of Medical Biochemistry, University of Alberta Hospital at 780-407-3185

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Robert Rennie, Edmonton Zone Clinical Department Head

Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Medical/Scientific Director and Co-Zone Clinical Department Head,
Laboratory Services – Edmonton Zone

Dr. James C. Wesenberg, Medical/Scientific Director, Laboratory Services – Regional
Centres and Rural