

Elimination of RBC Folate assay

Effective 01 JAN 2025

The Detroit Medical Center University Laboratories will cease testing of RBC Folate effective 01 JAN 2025.

Since 1998, the U.S. and Canada have mandated foods with processed grains be fortified with folic acid; and there has been a significant decline in the incidence of folate deficiency since then.

Serum folate is the preferred method for detecting nutritional folate deficiency and will continue to be offered.

References:

1. Farrell CJ, Kirsch SH, Herrmann M. Red cell or serum folate: what to do in clinical practice? *Clin Chem Lab Med.* 2013;51(3):555-569.
2. Owen WE, Roberts WL. Comparison of five automated serum and whole blood folate assays. *Am J Clin Pathol.*2003; 120(1):121-6.
3. Pillay TS, Oosthuizen NM. Why are we still measuring red cell folate instead of just serum folate? *J Clin Pathol.*2014; 67(4):289.
4. Robinson AR, Mladenovic J. Lack of clinical utility of folate levels in the evaluation of macrocytosis or anemia. *Am J Med.* 2001; 110(2):88-90.

Consultations:

- Timothy R. Kennedy, MD, Medical Director, (313) 745-4571

Technical inquiries

- Sylvana Ajrouche, chemistry supervisor, (313) 966-4146
- Heba Badr, PhD, Technical Director, (313) 745-4931
- Timothy R. Kennedy, MD, Medical Director, (313) 745-4571