

February 17, 2023

IMMUNOLOGY**Methodology Change****Date effective: February 21, 2023****Clinical Practice Change:**

The Shared Health Immunology Laboratory at Health Sciences Centre will be changing from a nephelometric to an immunoturbidimetric method for testing Immunoglobulins (IgG, IgA, IgM), Complement (C3, C4), Rheumatoid Factor (RF) and alpha-1-antitrypsin (AATD).

Background Information:

Currently being performed by Beckman Coulter IMMAGE 800 analyzers, testing will move to Binding Site Optilite instruments. Laboratory verification has shown strong correlation between the two methods with the exception of RF which demonstrated a -35% bias. This bias is reflected also in the vendor's suggested normal cutoff of 12.5 IU/ml versus the current 20 IU/ml.

Changes in Test Procedure:

- Providers who serially monitor patients should be aware that a variance may be detected after the transition. Due to changes in methodology, patients being serially monitored will need to be re-baselined.
- Reference ranges have been modified for all age groups and can be found using the Laboratory Information Manual link below.
- There are no changes to the requisition or test codes.

References/Resources:

[Shared Health Laboratory Information Manual](#)

Patient Impact:

Since all tests are now performed on a single platform, fewer serum aliquots are required.

System Improvements:

Decreased TAT for results.

Contact Information:

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