



Clinical Biochemistry and Genetics  
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## LABORATORY COMMUNICATION

### Changes to plasma/serum $\beta$ 2-Microglobulin Testing

February 5, 2009

The  $\beta$ 2-Microglobulin test is being discontinued by our current diagnostic company provider, necessitating changes to service as summarized in the table below. New test results will be higher, reflected by the upper limit of the reference interval. Please note that test reporting will now conform to the more widely-used conventional units of mg/L. Re-establishment of baselines for patients currently being followed will therefore be required. The change in reporting units will facilitate same unit comparisons with literature-reported prognostic decision levels of  $\beta$ 2-Microglobulin in the evaluation of Multiple Myeloma (generally longer survival has been associated with levels <4 mg/L) and other lymphoproliferative disorders.

**Effective February 17, 2009**, any specimens already in-lab and arriving thereafter at HSC Clinical Chemistry laboratory will be analyzed using the new test and reported with the new reference ranges.

Parameter	Current Test	New Test
Diagnostic Company	Abbott Diagnostics	Roche Modular
Method	Micro-particle Enzyme Immunoassay (MEIA)	Immunoturbimetry
Reference Values	708 – 1315 $\mu$ g/L ( $\mu$ g/L = mg/L x 1000 )	1.1 – 2.4 mg/L (mg/L x 84.7 = nmol/L*)
Test Code	BZM	BZMG
Test result availability	same week	daily

\*alternative conventional unit

Please direct questions or concerns regarding these changes to:

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