

Health Care Provider Bulletin

CHANGES TO RED BLOOD CELL MAGNESIUM TESTING

As part of ongoing efforts to improve our quality of service, LifeLabs Ontario will start offering Red Blood Cell/Erythrocyte Magnesium (RBC Mg) testing in-house.

This change will go into effect on March 3, 2025. The pricing will remain the same for all contract clients.

RBC Mg will be tested using ICP-MS/MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma – Tandem Mass Spectrometer) analytical platform, which is a gold standard for testing of trace metals.

Relevant information related to new testing is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. RBC Mg – TAT, Reference Interval, Sample Handling Requirements

Test	TAT	Reference Interval/Units	Sample Handling Requirements
RBC Mg	5 days	Male/Female: 1.56-2.60 mmol/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect blood in ROYAL BLUE top tube (K2EDTA).• Mix thoroughly by gentle inversion. Centrifuge with the stopper on for 15 minutes. Specimen MUST BE spun and separated WITHIN 2 HOURS of collection.• Using a polypropylene transfer pipette remove the plasma, buffy coat and a little of the red cells and place into an empty tube, cap and discard.• Keep RED CELLS in original ROYAL BLUE top tube (K2EDTA). Ensure that tube is capped tightly to avoid leakage.• Store and ship refrigerated at 2-8 degrees

Please note: Due to changes in the analytical platform, the reference interval and reporting comments were updated based on the internal verification procedures and comparison with other clinical laboratories in Ontario. Please interpret results in context of the reference intervals provided on the report.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact LifeLabs Customer Care Centre at **1-877-849-3637**.

Sincerely,
Lifelabs