

Red Cell Folate Testing to be Discontinued

Effective Date: August 7, 2018

Until the last 7-8 years, red cell folate was regarded as a better indicator of folate stores when compared to serum folate that can be affected by recent food ingestion. However, since folic acid supplementation of foods was implemented (FDA 1996), folate deficiency has become very uncommon to rare in the USA.

Investigators at Mayo Medical Labs performed a 10 year analysis of serum and RBC folate results and concluded that RBC folate provided no additional information beyond that provided by the serum measurement. In 2010, Mayo Medical Labs stopped performing RBC folate testing and a number of other large labs have followed suit. "Choosing Wisely", an initiative of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), also recommends use of serum folate alone.

Based on this information and review of our own data for 2017, Beaumont Laboratory will stop performing RBC folate on August 7th, 2018.

Reference:

Choosing Wisely from American Society for Clinical Pathology:
<http://www.choosingwisely.org/societies/american-society-for-clinical-pathology/>

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.

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Submitted by: Elizabeth Sykes, MD, Medical Director, Automated Chemistry and Special Testing, Clinical Pathology

Beaumont Laboratory

Customer Service

1-800-551-0488

28050 Grand River Ave.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

468 Cadieux Road
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

3601 West 13 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

44201 Dequindre Road
Troy, MI 48085

www.beaumontlaboratory.com