

Change to D-Dimer unit of measure.

March 23, 2015

Regarding: New D-Dimer unit reporting to begin May 1, 2015
(mg/L FEU instead of current ng/mL FEU)

Current Reporting: D-dimer results from the RWMC laboratory have traditionally been reported in ng/mL FEU. Our current analyzer produces results in **mg/L FEU**; these results are automatically converted into ng/mL FEU by our Laboratory Information System. The College of American Pathologists (CAP) now requires we discontinue this automatic conversion.

New Regulation: CAP regulation HEM.37924 states: **“The unit results in the laboratory report are the units generated directly by the D-dimer method, including both the unit type (e.g. FEU or D-DU) and unit of magnitude (e.g. ng/mL).”**

New Reporting: D-dimer results and reference intervals will be reported in units of mg/L (as generated by the RWMC CA1500 analyzer). The numbers generated will still be in FEU units but the new numerical results will be 1,000 times less than the current numerical results (because $1 \times 10^6 \text{ ng} = 1 \text{ mg}$ and $1 \times 10^3 \text{ mL} = 1 \text{ L}$). For example:

| Examples: | Previous Value | Previous Ref Range | New Value | New Ref Range |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| | 100 ng/mL | <500ng/mL FEU | 0.1 mg/L | <0.50 mg/L FEU |
| | 1,000 ng/mL | | 1.0 mg/L | |
| | 10,000 ng/mL | | 10 mg/L | |

Note: All clinical decision points will be numerically 1,000 times less than currently reported because of the new unit reporting requirement. For example, if you currently use a clinical cutoff for exclusion of VTE = 500 ng/mL FEU, the new cutoff will become 0.50 mg/L FEU.

Craig Krentz
Laboratory Director
craig.krentz@rwmc.net
308-630-2466