

# AoteaUpdate



## Dual reporting of units for HbA1c

**Dual reporting of % and mmol/mol units for HbA1c was begun in New Zealand in August 2009. At that time it was indicated that % units would be removed in August 2011. Now a national decision has been taken that dual reporting will be extended for a period which will be as short as possible.**

This extension of dual reporting is neither because of any concern about the scientific or clinical validity of the mmol/mol units nor because of any difficulties with transmission of the units by laboratory information systems. The New Zealand Society for the

Study of Diabetes completely supports the use of mmol/mol and this unit is accepted internationally. Although NZSSD accepts the delay, it is disappointed that it is necessary.

The issues that have been more complex to solve than expected are related to processing of data from practice management systems by the systems used to provide clinical decision support and those used by the Ministry of Health to provide data for audit and national key performance indicators.

These issues are being addressed and all involved are committed to the move to reporting only mmol/mol units, with a target



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date before the end of 2011. We suggest that you use the extra time to become more familiar with the 'numbers' in mmol/mol, especially as you can expect there to be increasing emphasis on their clinical use, even before the % units are removed.

## Paediatric Complete Blood Count (CBC) reference range change

**Periodically reference ranges are reviewed to fit an ever changing population. CBC reference ranges have been reviewed at Aotea Pathology.**



While there is no change to be made to the adult reference range, changes will be made to paediatric CBC reference ranges.

These changes will take effect from 11 July 2011. In the interest of regional



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consistency, all three haematology laboratories (Aotea Pathology, C&CDHB, and HVDHB) will be moving towards having the same reference ranges for CBC analysis. This will make interpretation of CBC results easier for referring clinicians.

For further information or any queries please contact Alex Beavis, Head of Haematology, on 04 381 5958.

## Removal of alerts on lipid results

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**You may have noticed that red "A"s are no longer appearing on lipid results. This is because they serve no purpose in the process used to calculate absolute cardiovascular risk.**

Asterisks are used to indicate deviation from conventional reference intervals but there are no reference intervals given for lipid fractions. Instead, in accord with New Zealand cardiovascular guidelines, optimal levels are stated. The significance of each set of lipid results needs to be assessed in the context of the individual patient, not compared with a population reference interval.