

MEMORANDUM**May 21, 2008**

TO: PHYSICIANS LABORATORY CLIENTS

**FROM: STEPHANIE GILLESPIE, M.S. M.T. (ASCP)SH
HEMATOLOGY SUPERVISOR**

SUBJECT: REPORTING RBCs (RED BLOOD CELLS) IN URINE SPECIMENS

The American Urological Association recommends the definition of "microscopic hematuria" (blood in the urine) as:

"Three (3) or more RBCs per high power microscopic field (hpf) in urinary sediment from two or three properly collected urinalysis specimens."

A "properly collected urinalysis specimen" is a freshly voided, clean-catch, midstream urine specimen. The specimen quantity should be at least 10 mL.

Beginning June 9, 2008 Physicians Laboratory will change the normal value for RBCs seen in the microscopic exam.

Old Normal Value

Negative
or
0-5 RBC/hpf

Old Abnormal Values

5-10 RBC/hpf
10-20 RBC/hpf
20-50 RBC/hpf
TNTC (Too numerous to count)

New Normal Value

Negative
or
0-2 RBC/hpf

New Abnormal Values

3-10 RBC/hpf
10-20 RBC/hpf
20-50 RBC/hpf
TNTC (Too numerous to count)

Notes: When a Urinalysis (test #216) has a positive dipstick result for blood, protein, leukocyte esterase or nitrite, a urine microscopic is automatically performed.

When the physician requests Urinalysis with Microscopic (test #1216), a microscopic examination is always performed whether the dipstick results are positive or not.

If you have questions, please contact me at 402-731-4145 or 1-800-642-1117.