

Technical Bulletin

New Hematology Parameter



Effective November 29, 2023 Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Methodist Jennie Edmundson, Methodist Fremont Health, and Methodist Women's Hospital Laboratories will begin reporting Reticulocyte Hemoglobin Content (Retic-HGB) when a reticulocyte count is ordered.

The Retic-HGB measures the amount of hemoglobin in the reticulocytes, thus reflecting the quality of the reticulocytes. If there is insufficient iron the reticulocytes released from the bone marrow will have decreased hemoglobin content, reflected by a low Retic-HGB. The Retic-HGB is an early marker of iron deficiency and will be decreased before decreased iron studies or microcytic indices are identified, thus assisting with early iron deficiency identification. Increased values following treatment with iron or erythropoiesis-stimulating agents suggest early response to therapy.

The Retic-HGB will be reported, along with the reticulocyte count and Immature Reticulocyte Fraction (IRF).

Reference Ranges:

Immature Retic Forms (IRF): 1-23%

Reticulocyte #Absolute: $0.03-0.12 \times 10^6$

Reticulocyte %: 0.7-2.6%

Retic-HGB: 29-35 pg

There are no changes to the specimen requirements.

Please direct any questions to:

Methodist Pathology Client Services at 402-354-4541 or 1-888-432-8980

Methodist Jennie Edmundson Laboratory at 712-396-6311

Methodist Fremont Laboratory at 402-727-3742