

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: NSHA, St. Anne's Community Centre and IWK Physicians, Health Service Managers (Inpatient, Outpatient, and Emergency Department) and Laboratories

From: Dr. Bassam Nassar, Physician Co-Chair of the PLM Biochemistry Service Advisory Committee and Dr. Steven D Soroka, Medical Lead, NSHA Pharmacy and Renal Program

Date: May 31, 2016

Message: **Change in reporting of 'Microalbuminuria' in NSHA, St. Anne's Community Centre and IWK Laboratories**

Commencing Monday June 27th 2016, the term 'microalbuminuria' will no longer be used in NSHA laboratory reports and will be replaced by the term 'urine albumin excretion', expressed as urine Albumin/Creatinine Ratio (U ACR) on random urine samples.

- This decision has been based on the recommendations of the KDIGO 2012 guidelines which state that the term 'microalbuminuria' (equivalent to U ACR 3–30 mg/mmol), should be replaced by 'moderately increased urine albumin excretion'.
- The NSHA laboratory report for urine albumin excretion will now appear as:

U ACR (Results will be flagged at ≥ 3 mg/mmol)*

URINE ALBUMIN/CREATININE RATIO = ALB/CREAT RATIO = (U ACR)

Comments

Normal– mildly increased: <3.0 mg/mmol

Moderately increased: 3.0 – 30 mg/mmol* (Previously referred to as microalbuminuria)

Severely increased: >30.0 mg/mmol

eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73m² and/or U ACR ≥ 3 mg/mmol for >3 months are diagnostic criteria for chronic kidney disease (CKD).

- Requisitions will be updated to reflect the new terminology (in Central Zone only at this time).
- U ACR is preferred choice for screening and follow up of most patients with nephropathy. However in some cases of severely increased ACR, a urine protein creatinine ratio (U PCR) may be required.
- A random (early morning) urine sample is the preferred specimen for U ACR or U PCR.

For more information on the KDIGO 2012 guidelines:

http://www.kdigo.org/clinical_practice_guidelines/pdf/CKD/KDIGO_2012_CKD_GL.pdf

For more information on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) identification, management & referral:

<http://www.nsrp.gov.ns.ca/ckd-prevention-and-early-detection>

If you have further questions about this change, please contact Dr. Manal Elnenaei at 902-473-5194, Dr. Bassam Nassar at 902-473-2225, or Dr Amy Lou at 902-473-1528.