



Dysmorphic Red Cells in Urine

The presence of dysmorphic red cells in urine samples has been used to indicate the presence of glomerular disease of the kidney. However quality assurance around the laboratory testing for dysmorphic red cells has been problematic.

The following points should be noted:

- There is no standardised methodology for the laboratory detection of dysmorphic red cells, nor is there any external quality control programme available.
- The test is relatively subjective in nature and suffers from inter-observer variability and poor reproducibility.
- Testing can only occur if the sample is received into the laboratory immediately.
- The positive predictive value of the assay in diagnosing glomerular disease of the kidneys is poor.

Taking all these factors into account, we have decided to discontinue offering this test to laboratory users.

This change will take effect from **1st September 2018**.

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CLINICAL UPDATE

Please ensure all members of your institution
receive a copy of this clinical update.