



Rheumatoid Factor (RF) - Method Change

The company that provides us with Rheumatoid Factor (RF) test reagent has decided to withdraw the kit from production. They decided to do so because of the incidence of borderline positive results which were not always reproducible, thus giving sub-optimal specificity. We have also received comments from Rheumatologists who have seen patients with marginally elevated RF results but who have no evidence of Rheumatoid Arthritis.

We are, with immediate effect, migrating to a new method which is considered the 'Gold Standard' for RF measurement. This nephelometric method is identical to that currently in use at Health Waikato and should ensure better continuity of monitoring for individual patients.

All results for RF received from 29th June will have been tested on the new platform. There is no change to the Reference Interval which remains at '<20 IU/mL'.

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CLINICAL UPDATE