

Memo

To: Consultants, clinicians, researchers, referral laboratories

From: Dr Campbell Kyle, Clinical Head, Specialist Chemical Pathology Department

Date: 22/08/18

Subject: Whole blood lead reference intervals

Whole blood lead reference intervals, and the comments associated with lead exposure, will change in September 2018.

These changes are aligned with national and international guidelines that recognise environmental lead levels have fallen since reference intervals were last reviewed. A whole blood lead ≥ 0.24 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (instead of current level at $\geq 0.48\mu\text{mol/L}$) suggests that the individual has been, or continues to be exposed to lead at a level above average background exposure.

As an example of new guidelines, the Australian NHMRC 2015 statement is available at:
https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/eh58_nhmrc_statement_lead_effects_human_health_a.pdf

Links to new guidelines will be available on the LabPLUS Testguide once the new ranges and comments are introduced.

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