



# Metro Lab Test Tips

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Metro Lab can perform two different types of tests to detect colon cancer. Epi-ProColon is a physician-ordered blood test, collected at one of our Patient Service Centers, which detects the DNA associated with Colon Cancer - Test Code 308155. Fit-Chek, is a conventional stool sample collected in your patient's home and sent to the lab. Fit-Chek will screen for digestive tract bleeding, which may be an indicator of colon cancer. The Test Code for Fit-Chek is 8252.

## IRON DEFICIENCY

In the US, 3.4 million people have anemia and more than 2 billion people are affected globally. Many of these people have Iron Deficiency and/or Iron Deficiency Anemia. By utilizing all of the parameters that our Sysmex technology can provide, our Reticulocyte Profile Order #2000, can assist physicians with earlier detection, differential diagnosis, and management of ID/IDA prevention and chronic disease.

1. **Reticulocyte Counts**- the *quantity* (% and #) of the youngest erythrocytes normally released from the bone marrow into circulating blood.
2. **Immature Reticulocyte Fraction (IRF)** – is the *rate* of production of reticulocytes which is largely dependent on the bone marrow response to erythropoietin.
3. **Reticulocyte Hemoglobin Content (Ret-He)** – measures the amount of hemoglobin in reticulocytes reflecting *the quality* of the newly produced retics. Ongoing reticulocyte production in the absence of sufficient iron eventually yields microcytic, hypochromic RBCs. Therefore, Ret-He is an earlier measure of diminished hemoglobin production compared to hemoglobin and hematocrit.

These three parameters will now be reported with every reticulocyte order. Retic order #2001 will no longer be active for the best care for our patients.

## GREEN TOP TUBES

With new instrumentation and improved methodologies, we are changing the supplies that we provide for your use. We will no longer supply Light Green Heparin tubes for use on any routine tests. Please refer to the **Specimen Preparation** spreadsheet under the *For Physicians* tab on our website.



## *EXPIRED COLLECTION MEDIA*

Our Specimen Processing Department has seen a sharp increase in **expired** collection media received from various clinics that may compromise the integrity of the specimen. We ask that someone in your office be assigned to monitor the specimen collection media and create a par-level of supplies that are needed for a given period (a short period) of time. To place an order once a week or every other week to fill you par-levels. Also, **do not send syringes with the needle attached**. It's the office's responsibility to remove the needle and cap the syringe or transfer the specimen to a sterile container. Be sure there are two patient identifiers, date, time, source, and collectors initials.

## *CREATININE VS. CREATINE*

We are seeing more hand-written and electronic orders for these tests. Our staff cannot change an order, but will sometimes recognize that the test ordered may not be the test you want. **CREATININE**, test code 60303, is for kidney function. **CREATINE**, test code 302195 is for metabolism. The creatinine is performed at Metro Lab with a turn-around in about 4 hours. The creatine is a send out that takes 2 to 9 days.

## *PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS*

We announced in the November Test Tips that UnitedHealthcare, UHC, would require a prior authorization [PA] before submitting orders to a performing lab. We have seen initial lab orders that did not meet that criteria and tested fine. The subsequent add-on orders, however, needed to have a PA. You can find a list of UHC indicated CPT codes that need a PA on our website front page. Please note that Metro Lab will not call UHC for the PA. The office must make that call and provide the authorization code along with the add-on recommended test.

*As always, thank you for your continued support.  
We appreciate being your laboratory of choice.*

**Metropolitan Medical Laboratory, PLC**

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