

CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

Urine Albumin/Creatinine Ratio

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On August 17th the reports for Urine Albumin/Creatinine ratio were updated, the assay did not change. The reporting changes were to address issues with results that are outside our measuring range and how these are converted to ratios.

Currently reports state “unable to calculate” if the urine albumin is below the measuring range. Previously if the urine albumin was below our measuring range (<3 mg/L), the ratio was calculated as if the urine albumin result was 3 and a numeric result was given. We are working to revise the current reporting strategy to be more informative for samples with low albumin results. Until then the following information may be helpful.

If the urine creatinine is reported without a < or > sign, and the report for the urine albumin/creatinine ratio is “**unable to calculate**” it is because the urine albumin is below the measuring range of the assay (<3 mg/L). **In these cases the urine albumin/creatinine ratio would be in the normal range if the urine creatinine is greater than or equal to 1.1 mmol/L for females, and greater than or equal to 1.5 mmol/L for males. In these cases no recollection is required.**

However, if the creatinine is <1.1 mmol/L for females or < 1.5 mmol/L for males and the urine albumin is <3 mg/L then the ratio cannot be interpreted, as the urine sample is very dilute.

If the urine creatinine is <0.1 mmol/L the ACR will state “unable to calculate due to dilute urine” any ratio would be uninterpretable in this case.

If the urine creatinine is > 135 mmol/L the ACR will state “unable to calculate” any ratio would be uninterpretable in this case.

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