
Memorandum

Completion of the final phase of the implementation of the international standardisation of the measurement and reporting of HbA1c in Ireland with the discontinuation of dual reporting from Monday 16th January 2012.

Date: 12th December 2011

From: Dr. Diarmuid Smith, Clinical Lead, HSE National Clinical Programme for Diabetes;
Dr. Ned Barrett, Chairman, HSE Project Team for the Implementation of the International Standardisation of the Measurement and Reporting of HbA1c in Ireland.

To: Each RDO, Health Service Executive;
Dr. Barry White, National Director of Clinical Strategy and Programmes;
Each hospital laboratory providing HbA1c results;
Each point-of-care testing location providing HbA1c results;
Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme for Laboratory Medicine;
Irish Endocrine Society;
Irish College of General Practitioners;
Diabetes Federation of Ireland;
The National Healthlink Project, 58 Eccles Street, Dublin 7
Health Information and Quality Authority.

The HbA1c test is a measure of how well diabetes is controlled. It also helps to identify those with diabetes who are at greater risk of developing the long-term complications of the condition and may be used in the diagnosis of diabetes.

Since 1st July 2010, the measurement of HbA1c in Irish clinical laboratories is fully traceable to the international reference measurement system for HbA1c. The name of the test has changed to HbA1c (IFCC) and results are reported in new units called mmol/mol. People with diabetes and the diabetes care teams have gradually become accustomed to the new units over the past year and a half. During this period, HbA1c results have been reported in the new units (mmol/mol) alongside the older (DCCT) percentage format. This is known as dual reporting and it was intended as an interim

measure until the end of 2011 so as to assist the transition to the use of the new units only. Adapting to the new units has been a challenge for many involved in diabetes care.

Since July 2010, the HSE website (www.hse.ie/go/diabetes) has assisted the transition by providing information and resources for people with diabetes, healthcare professionals, laboratory professionals, and suppliers of HbA1c equipment and reagents to Irish hospitals and clinics. Information leaflets and conversion charts are available for download from this site. An online calculator is also available to convert units either way. Information for people with diabetes is available in English, Irish and Polish.

The Diabetes Federation of Ireland has produced a record and information mini-booklet in the form of a Z-Card entitled "*My HbA1c Results*". The Federation also has resources available on its website at www.diabetes.ie to assist people with diabetes understand the changes. During the lead up to World Diabetes Day on 14th November, the national news media carried information on the changes along with features promoting a greater awareness of diabetes.

Hospital laboratories providing HbA1c results should cease dual reporting on Monday 16th January 2012 and from that date onwards HbA1c results should be reported in mmol/mol only. HbA1c testing in the point-of-care setting should also discontinue dual reporting from that time. These dates should be adhered to unless there are very cogent local circumstances prevailing in a hospital that would justify a minimal deferral period to attain an adequate state of readiness.

Once again we wish to thank you all for your work and co-operation with the implementation of the international standardisation of the measurement and reporting of HbA1c in Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Diarmuid Smith,
Clinical Lead,
National Clinical Programme for Diabetes,
Health Service Executive.

Dr. Ned Barrett,
Chairman,
HSE Project Team for the Implementation of the
International Standardisation of the Measurement
and Reporting of HbA1c in Ireland.

international change to HbA_{1c} results

HbA _{1c} (IFCC) mmol/mol	HbA _{1c} (DCCT) %						
21	4.1	51	6.8	81	9.6	111	12.3
22	4.2	52	6.9	82	9.7	112	12.4
23	4.3	53	7.0	83	9.7	113	12.5
24	4.3	54	7.1	84	9.8	114	12.6
25	4.4	55	7.2	85	9.9	115	12.7
26	4.5	56	7.3	86	10.0	116	12.8
27	4.6	57	7.4	87	10.1	117	12.9
28	4.7	58	7.5	88	10.2	118	12.9
29	4.8	59	7.5	89	10.3	119	13.0
30	4.9	60	7.6	90	10.4	120	13.1
31	5.0	61	7.7	91	10.5	121	13.2
32	5.1	62	7.8	92	10.6	122	13.3
33	5.2	63	7.9	93	10.7	123	13.4
34	5.3	64	8.0	94	10.8	124	13.5
35	5.4	65	8.1	95	10.8	125	13.6
36	5.4	66	8.2	96	10.9	126	13.7
37	5.5	67	8.3	97	11.0	127	13.8
38	5.6	68	8.4	98	11.1	128	13.9
39	5.7	69	8.5	99	11.2	129	14.0
40	5.8	70	8.6	100	11.3	130	14.0
41	5.9	71	8.6	101	11.4	131	14.1
42	6.0	72	8.7	102	11.5	132	14.2
43	6.1	73	8.8	103	11.6	133	14.3
44	6.2	74	8.9	104	11.7	134	14.4
45	6.3	75	9.0	105	11.8	135	14.5
46	6.4	76	9.1	106	11.8	136	14.6
47	6.5	77	9.2	107	11.9	137	14.7
48	6.5	78	9.3	108	12.0	138	14.8
49	6.6	79	9.4	109	12.1	139	14.9
50	6.7	80	9.5	110	12.2	140	15.0

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Diabetes information: www.hse.ie/go/diabetes

Supported by the Diabetes Federation of Ireland

