



Memo to: Healthcare Personnel
From: Alverno Clinical Laboratories, General Laboratory Department
Subject: **New test beginning June 30, 2008 – Beta-2 Microglobulin**

We are pleased to announce a new service for our healthcare providers, Beta-2 microglobulin testing.

Beta-2 microglobulin is a small membrane protein found on the surface of virtually all cells (RBCs are an exception); it normally passes freely through the glomerulus where it is reabsorbed by the proximal tubules of the kidney. Levels are increased in renal disease, lymphoproliferative disorders, autoimmune diseases and inflammatory disease.

This test is useful when evaluating patients for certain kinds of cancer affecting white blood cells including chronic lymphocytic leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and multiple myeloma or kidney disease. Increased production or destruction of white blood cells causes Beta-2-microglobulin levels in the blood to increase.

Beta-2-Microglobulin levels are a helpful indicator for disease development and therapy estimation. Other diseases with activation of the cellular immune system induce an elevation of Beta-2-Microglobulin in serum.

When kidney disease is suspected, comparing blood and urine levels helps identify where the kidney is damaged. Glomerular kidney disease versus tubular kidney disease can be established based on the results of Beta-2 microglobulin in the blood and urine.

This test is FDA approved and manufactured by Roche.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1 mL serum/Li heparin or EDTA plasma

Specimen stability - 3 days refrigerated or 6 months frozen

The Soft order code is **MICGL**.

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