

Date: 28 Nov 2019

Re: **Change of adjusted calcium calculation**

Dear Colleague,

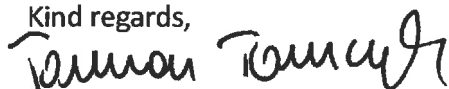
As you know, MedLab Pathology currently report serum total calcium and adjusted calcium results (formerly called '*corrected calcium*'). Calcium concentration can be adjusted to take into account the patient's serum albumin levels. Adjusted calcium is a surrogate marker for free ionised calcium, the biologically active component in the circulation. To date, MedLab Pathology has used a standard universal equation to calculate adjusted calcium. However, international best practice now advocates that each laboratory should use their own locally derived equation, which will provide a better assessment of the calcium status of the laboratory's patient population, by using specific analytical methods and relevant calcium and albumin data.

In line with recent guidelines, MedLab Pathology has derived an appropriate equation for adjusted calcium using our own population database of total calcium and albumin values.

- The new equation will be implemented on 15 January 2020.
- Total and adjusted calcium will be reported together.
- There will be no change to current reference limits or units.
- The adjusted calcium equation is valid for adults only. Results will be reported for paediatric patients stating this.
- The adjusted calcium equation is only validated for albumin values between 25 and 50 g/L.

If you would like additional information regarding this test please do not hesitate to contact us on 1800 303 349 or email us at info@medlabpathology.ie.

Kind regards,



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