



LABORATORY NOTICE

TO: CLIENTS
FROM: CLINICAL REFERENCE LABORATORY, INC.
SUBJECT: CHANGES TO NON-DOT PH AND CREATININE ACCEPTABLE RANGES
DATE: 12/16/2022

In an effort to improve our result turnaround times, we are adjusting the specimen validity testing (SVT) acceptance criteria for Non-DOT urine samples tested at the laboratory effective February 20, 2023. These changes will not impact DOT or DOT look alike tests.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
pH	9.0	9.5
Creatinine	20 mg/dL	10 mg/dL
Specific Gravity	1.003	1.003

pH Criteria:

Weather fluctuations, particularly the summer heat, can cause the pH of urine samples to rise above 9.0 resulting in an “invalid” result without any attempt by the donor to adulterate the test. Our research indicates adjusting the upper range of pH to 9.5 eliminates approximately 70% of “invalid” results due to high pH caused by weather fluctuations.

Creatinine Criteria:

Consistent with the pH data analysis, our research indicates adjusting the dilute criteria to 10 mg/dL would eliminate approximately 80% of unnecessary creatinine tests. Samples with a creatinine outside of the acceptable range require a specific gravity test to determine if the sample meets criteria as dilute. However, both creatinine and specific gravity must meet criteria for dilute which means hundreds of additional creatinine tests are performed daily which delay result reporting with no benefit for the employer. The reporting of a “negative dilute” result does not typically affect an employer’s hiring decision but does delay reporting by the laboratory due to the additional testing required to release the result.

We believe these enhancements to Non-DOT SVT acceptance criteria will reduce testing delays and improve the hiring process by expediting result reporting with no negative impact to the quality of testing.

If you have questions, or would like to opt out of these enhancements, please contact us at clscs@crlcorp.com