

Memo

To: Allina Medical Laboratories Reference Laboratory Clients

From: AML, Reference Laboratory Services

Date: September 05, 2008

Re: Beta-2-Microglobulin Testing Coming In-House

On Tuesday September 9, 2008, Allina Medical Laboratories will begin performing Beta-2-Microglobulin testing in-house. Specimen requirements and test information are included below.

Test Name	Beta-2-Microglobulin
Ultra Test Code/Number	B2M /1096
CPT Code	82232
List Price	\$32.00
Days Performed	Monday - Thursday
Transport	Refrigerated
Specimen Type	1 ml Serum
Container	Serum Separator Tube (SST)
Processing	Spin
Stability	Refrigerated: 5 Days , Frozen: 1 month
Turnaround Time	3-4 Days
Method	Nephelometry
Reference Range(s)	0.70 – 1.80

Beta-2-Microglobulin (B2M) is used to evaluate the prognosis of multiple myeloma. Serum levels are elevated in diseases associated with increased cell turnover. In multiple myeloma, B2M is a powerful prognostic factor, values <4 µg/mL are considered a good prognostic indicator. Studies have shown that the median survival of patients with B2M values >4 µg/mL was approximately 1 year where as median survival for patients with B2M values <4 µg/mL was approximately 3.75 years.

Beta-2-Microglobulin is also elevated in chronic inflammation, liver disease, renal dysfunction, some acute viral infections, and a number of malignancies, especially hematologic disorders associated with the B-lymphocytes.

In renal tubular disease, serum levels are low and urine levels are high.