



LABORATORY ALLIANCE of Central New York, LLC

Calculated Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR)

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a growing health concern since end-stage renal disease is increasing at a rate of over 8% per year. Often, the early stages of CKD are silent and detectable only by laboratory testing. While the level of serum creatinine historically has been used as an indicator of GFR, numerous factors can make its use unsuitable and inaccurate. Reduced muscle mass associated with age and malnutrition are the two most frequently encountered factors that reduce the accuracy of creatinine as an indicator of GFR.

In 2002, the National Kidney Foundation developed a new classification and stratification system for CKD, based on the GFR. Several studies have demonstrated that a reasonably accurate approximation of the GFR for adults can be made using a calculation that includes a patient's creatinine, age, sex and race. On March 22, 2005, Laboratory Alliance will begin providing this calculated GFR at NO additional charge when serum creatinine levels are ordered on patients age 20 and older. Since race may affect this calculation, two GFRs will be reported on each patient for physician interpretation: African-American and all other races.

It is important to note that some patients, particularly the elderly, may show slight to moderate renal function impairment using the estimated calculated GFR, compared with the serum creatinine alone. The appropriate workup of such renal impairment needs to be considered in light of the overall clinical picture. In addition, it should be recognized that a calculated GFR ≥ 60 does not necessarily exclude mild renal impairment.

Calculated GFR will be provided when the following tests are ordered:

- Creatinine: test code – CREA
- Basic Metabolic Panel: test code – BMP
- Comprehensive Metabolic Panel: test code – CMP
- Renal Function Panel: test code - RFP

For More Information:

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this test service, please contact Ms. Cheryl Haskins, Chemistry Manager, at 315-410-7014 or cherylhaskins@lacny.com.

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