




Date: January 28, 2010
To: Medical Staff, Providers and Caregivers
From: John G. Newby, MD 
Director of Laboratories
Subject: Change in reporting units for HS-CRP and CRP to mg/L

Effective Monday, February 1, 2010, Hagerstown Medical Laboratory (HML) will begin reporting high-sensitivity C-Reactive Protein in mg/L. Previous results have been reported as mg/dL. This change will bring HML results into alignment with data in current literature as well as reference material. The following table illustrates the relationship between results and the cardiac risk data developed at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. It is the format that will be used for reporting patient results.

Reference range: 0.4 - 2.0 mg/L

High Sensitivity CRP range (mg/L)	Cardiovascular Risk Estimate
-----	-----
< 1	Low
1 - 3	Average
> 3	High

Risk data are from studies at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School for males over 20 years of age and post-menopausal women. Risk estimate may not be applicable for testing performed within two or three weeks of acute infection.

High-sensitivity CRP result interpretation should be coordinated with other laboratory and clinical data.

In order to maintain consistency, we will also change the units for Adult and Neonatal C-Reactive Protein (i.e. non-high sensitivity) from mg/dL to mg/L at the same time. The new reference ranges for these tests will be:

Adult CRP	0 - 8 mg/L
Neonatal CRP	2 - 8 mg/L

Please feel free to contact HML's Chemistry Technical Specialist, Myrna Hale at (301) 665-4983 with any questions or comments.