

News

Clinical Laboratory Test Update

Lipid Panel LDL-C Update

Effective September 8, 2020 the University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Laboratory will begin using the Martin-Hopkins equation to calculate Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL-C). This formula will replace the historical Friedewald calculation that was designed decades ago for fasting samples containing normal or only moderately increased levels of triglyceride.

The more recently developed Martin-Hopkins equation is designed to be a better estimate of LDL for most patients including those on modern lipid-lowering regimens with lower LDL levels. It isn't expected to produce markedly different values as compared to the old estimate when triglycerides in the sample are within normal limits.

While the Martin-Hopkins method is generally a better estimate, as with any estimate it can be less accurate when applied in unusual settings (e.g. severe hypertriglyceridemia or Fredrickson-Levy and Lees Type III dyslipidemia). Although not necessarily more accurate, direct measurement of LDL can be considered for comparison with the calculated value in complex clinical scenarios.

Please contact Dr. Greg Bocsi at 720-848-7050 if you have any questions or visit our test directory at <https://www.testmenu.com/universityhospital> for additional information.

Issued: September 7, 2020