

## Biotech Clinical Laboratory Technical Bulletin

Effective May 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 Biotech Clinical Laboratory will discontinue offering the RBC Folate test.

American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) made the following recommendations:

- RBC folate measurements are more complex and have problems with precision and accuracy therefore serum/plasma folate measurement is a better and more accurate test.
- Serum Folate measurements can be reasonably used to confirm deficiency when symptoms of deficiency are present.
- Folate measurements should be only ordered to confirm a deficiency in symptomatic patients

The National Institutes of Health offer a useful summary of the importance of folate and the American Associate for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) has an overview of folate with a focus on testing.

Concentrations of liver folate have been found to correlate equally well between serum folate and RBC folate measurements. As noted earlier, there are disadvantages to performing the RBC folate test since it is more complex to perform than the serum folate assays. This is likely the reason for the decreased precision of the RBC folate assay compared to the serum folate assay.

**The RBC folate test provides no additional information over the simpler and more available serum test.**

For additional information or any questions about this change please contact Technical Director

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### References

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