

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Regional Medical Laboratory, Inc. (RML) Clients

From: Regional Medical Laboratory, Inc.  
Cindi Starkey, M.D., Ph.D, Medical Director of Regional Medical Laboratory  
C. Terrance Dolan, M.D., President of Regional Medical Laboratory

Date: January 10, 2022

**Subject: Transition to 2021 CKD-EPI Creatinine GFR calculation**

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Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) is one of the primary diagnostic methods for detecting and managing kidney diseases. Historically, eGFR equations include age, sex, race and/or body weight factors to approximate directly measured kidney function. However, many health organizations have affirmed that race is a social construct and not a biologic one.

In 2020, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), established a Joint Task Force on Reassessing the Inclusion of Race in Diagnosing Kidney Disease. After many months of investigation, the leaders of NKF and ASN have stated that race modifiers should not be included in equations to estimate kidney function and in 2021 have released a new equation. RML is committed to providing quality laboratory services and measurements for our patients and is pleased to announce our plan to adopt the 2021 Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) creatinine equation for estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR). Adopting this approach to calculating GFR allows the healthcare system to move towards a more consistent method of diagnosing kidney disease independent of race.

Beginning February 21st, 2022, eGFR calculations will no longer be reported with two values, GFR African American (GFR AA) and GFR NON-African American (GFR NON AA). eGFR will be reported with one value as GFR Calculation (GFR CALC). There is no change to the normal reference range. However, this new calculation may report a different eGFR and could potentially alter the stage of kidney diseases for some patients. For this reason, it is important that health care professionals and their patients are aware of their latest eGFR in case the new eGFR calculation changes the patients' kidney disease status or stage.

### Reference:

NKF statement 9/23/21- <https://www.kidney.org/news/nkf-and-asn-release-new-way-to-diagnose-kidney-diseases>  
NKF statement 4/9/21- [https://www.asn-online.org/about/press/releases/ASN\\_PR\\_20210409\\_ASN\\_NKF\\_FINAL4.8.21.pdf](https://www.asn-online.org/about/press/releases/ASN_PR_20210409_ASN_NKF_FINAL4.8.21.pdf)