



Memo No. 2020-016
Date: 28-Feb-2020
Memo To: Clients
Re: *Test Revisions: Metanephrines and Dopamine, Urine*

St Michael's Hospital has upgraded the testing methodology and reporting of urine metanephrine and of urine dopamine. **Effective March 17/2020**, this testing will be performed by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). The LC-MS/MS technology is considered the gold standard and has improved analytical specificity compared to other methods in common use.

There are no changes in specimen handling or prices.

Please review all the reference ranges and reporting units.

Please note the following regarding urine metanephrines:

- The new method measures free instead of total metanephrines
- Recent literature shows that 24-hr urine free metanephrines have better diagnostic accuracy compared to total metanephrines. References:
 - Lenders JWM et al. J Clinical Endocrinol Metab, 2014, 99(6): 1915-1942
 - Eisenhower G et al. Clinical Chemistry, 2018, 64(11): 1646-1656
- Free metanephrine and free normetanephrine will be about 80% lower compared to the current method
- 3-Methoxytyramine, a metabolite of dopamine, will be reported as part of metanephrines analysis

Details for these new test services are available in the ICL web-based test catalogue at <https://iclabs.ca/test-catalogue/>.

- [Dopamine, Random Urine \(Available March 17, 2020\)](#)
- [Dopamine, 24 hr Urine \(Available March 17, 2020\)](#)
- [Metanephrines - Fractionated, Random Urine \(Available March 17, 2020\)](#)
- [Metanephrines - Fractionated, 24 hr Urine \(Available March 17, 2020\)](#)

If you have further questions, please contact Client Care at (416) 422-3000 Ext. 300 or info@ICLabs.ca

Dr. Shashank Tilak, Ph.D., DCC
Laboratory Director
(416) 422-3000 Ext. 221
ShashTilak@ICLabs.ca

Want to receive updates by e-mail? Please contact Client Care info@ICLabs.ca