

**Memo No.** 2023-035  
**Date:** 08-Aug-2023  
**Memo To:** Clients  
**Re:** ***New Protocol: Urine Bence-Jones Protein and Protein Electrophoresis***

Effective September 5, 2023, a new test protocol will be implemented by Scarborough Health Network for urine electrophoresis and urine immunofixation services.

Present Protocol	New Protocol eff. 5-Sep-2023
<a href="#">Urine electrophoresis</a> ordered & performed. <a href="#">Bence-Jones IFE</a> sometimes added by the lab as a reflex test (and is also orderable by the client as the first-line test with no reflex protocol).	<a href="#">Bence-Jones IFE (with reflex electrophoresis)</a> ordered & performed. Electrophoresis sometimes added by the lab as a reflex test (but is not orderable by the client as a first-line test.)

**The new protocol will allow faster reporting of clinically relevant results.**

You must order [Bence-Jones Protein \(by IFE\) and Reflex Protein Electrophoresis, Urine](#) instead of [Protein Electrophoresis, Random Urine](#) (which will no longer be orderable as a standalone test but will only be available as a reflex test when Bence-Jones proteins are detected by IFE.) There is no change in test prices for either IFE or electrophoresis.

**New Protocol:**

- Immunofixation (IFE) is more specific for Bence-Jones proteins than protein electrophoresis (PE).
  - Eliminating initial PE screening enables shorter laboratory turnaround time and faster final reports.
  - Quantitating detected Bence-Jones proteins allows longitudinal monitoring, rather than merely indicating their presence or absence.
1. Bence-Jones by IFE will be the new first line test instead of urine protein electrophoresis (PE). PE testing will only be available as a reflex test.
    - a. If IFE is negative for Bence-Jones proteins, a Negative final report will be issued and PE testing will not be performed.
    - b. If IFE is positive for Bence-Jones proteins, PE analysis will also be performed, and a final report will be issued that includes the IFE and PE results. A separate fee will be applicable for the performed PE.
  2. PE reports, when performed, will include:
    - a. Quantitation of the detected protein fractions.
    - b. Quantitative estimation of the detected Bence-Jones protein.

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

[ShashTilak@ICLabs.ca](mailto:ShashTilak@ICLabs.ca)

**Want to receive updates by e-mail? Please contact Client Care [info@ICLabs.ca](mailto:info@ICLabs.ca)**