

Laboratory Testing Update

To: Inpatient, Outpatient, and ED Providers

From: Dr. Hart, Medical Director, Clinical Laboratory

Date: 9/3/2025

Re: Age-adjusted reference intervals for D Dimer

Beginning Tuesday, 9/16/2025, an age-adjusted threshold will be applied to all D-dimer tests when ordered for the purpose of venous thromboembolism exclusion. The decision to implement this change was made after consultation with ED and radiology leaders and was supported by the Medical Informatics Committee. Literature references are cited below. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Dr. Hart at 859-301-2018.

Provider or designee must click to indicate the order reason.

! Ordering Purpose

Exclude venous blood clot (pulmonary embolism, eg)

Other purpose (disseminated intravascular coagulation, eg)

Do not use D-dimer test for VTE exclusion in patients with high clinical pretest probability.

An age-adjusted threshold (age x 10) will ONLY be applied when the VTE exclusion option is selected. For all other purposes, the standard reference interval of 500 will be applied regardless of age.

1. De Pooter N, et al. Age-adjusted D-dimer cut-off levels to rule out venous thromboembolism in patients with non-high pre-test probability: clinical performance and cost-effectiveness analysis. J Thromb Haemost. 2021;19(5):1271-1281.
2. Righini M, et al. Age-adjusted D-dimer cutoff levels to rule out pulmonary embolism: the ADJUST-PE study. JAMA. 2014;311(11):1117-1124.
3. Lim W, et al. American Society of Hematology 2018 guidelines for management of venous thromboembolism: diagnosis of venous thromboembolism. Blood Adv. 2018;2(22):3226-3256.