

Technical Bulletin

Changes to Iron Panel and Transferrin orders



Effective April 16, 2024, Methodist Laboratories (Methodist Fremont Health, Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Methodist Women's Hospital, and Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital) will introduce an iron panel that includes transferrin. The standard iron panel with a Total Iron Binding Capacity (TIBC) will remain available and is deemed the preferred order.

This change is to streamline the orders when both iron panel (with TIBC) and transferrin are ordered.

Iron studies should be used to diagnose and manage iron deficiency or iron overload states. These tests are not to be used solely to assess acute phase reactants where disease management will be unchanged. For example, infections and malignancies are associated with an elevation in acute phase reactants such as ferritin and a decrease in serum iron concentration. Iron studies are only medically necessary if the results of iron studies might alter the management of the primary diagnosis or might warrant direct treatment of an iron disorder or condition.

Change: After April 16th 2024, if an Iron Panel (serum iron, TIBC, and iron (transferrin) saturation) is ordered together with a transferrin assay the order will be converted to the new Transferrin Profile (serum iron, TIBC (calculated), serum transferrin, and iron (transferrin) saturation).

Reference ranges: The ranges will be unified across the system as follows:

Iron	0-1y	30-70 ug/dL
Iron	1-10y	50-120 ug/dL
Iron	10-150y	50-150 ug/dL
Iron Saturation	0-150y	20-50 %
TIBC	0-150y	250-450 ug/dL
Transferrin	0-10y	145-360 mg/dL
Transferrin	10-150y	200-360 mg/dL

Order: Iron Panel; Transferrin Profile.

Specimen Requirements: 5mL SST (heparinized plasma is acceptable). Centrifuge and send SST tube or 1 mL serum or plasma. Refrigerate @ 2-8°C.

Please direct any questions to:

Methodist Pathology Client Services at 402-354-4541 or 1-888-432-8980

Methodist Jennie Edmundson Laboratory at 712-396-6311

Methodist Fremont Laboratory at 402-727-3742