

TEST UPDATE

Ferritin Reference Range Change

UVMMC

Effective 5/27/25, the ferritin adult reference range will be updated. This change will help clinicians quickly identify and treat iron deficiency anemia as ferritin levels below 30 ng/dL correlate with the absence of iron stores in the bone marrow¹. Extensive studies have also shown that a serum ferritin concentration of less than 30 ng/mL has a high specificity (98%) and sensitivity (92%) for diagnosing iron deficiency in adults². In addition, the upper end of the reportable range for ferritin will change from 6000 ng/mL to 16,500 ng/mL. This change is a result of the sudden increase in patients with hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH).

Orderable to be Updated	Epic Code	Atlas Code	Mayo Access ID
Ferritin	LAB68	FER	FAH147

Age	Sex	Current Reference Interval		New Reference Interval	
		Low	High	Low	High
≥18 years	Male	22 ng/mL	322 ng/mL	30 ng/mL	322 ng/mL
≥18 years	Female	10 ng/mL	291 ng/mL	30 ng/mL	291 ng/mL

For questions of concerns related to this change, please contact Dr. Hanna Loving (hanna.loving@uvmhealth.org).

References:

1. Dignass A, Farrag K, Stein J. Limitations of serum ferritin in diagnosing iron deficiency in inflammatory conditions. *Int J Chronic Dis* 2018; **2018**: 9394060.
2. Mast AE, Blinder MA, Gronowski AM, Chumley C, Scott MG. Clinical utility of the soluble transferrin receptor and comparison with serum ferritin in several populations. *Clin Chem* 1998; **44**: 45–51.

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