

Test Utilization for CRP and hs-CRP

- C-Reactive Protein (CRP) is a plasma protein found in high levels during acute and chronic inflammatory states.
- In contrast, hs-CRP (high sensitivity-C Reactive Protein) detects lower levels of CRP to evaluate if that individual has an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease, but is **ONLY** useful in patients who are otherwise healthy and stable.
- Current guidelines for use of hs-CRP restricts its usefulness to patients who:
 1. are metabolically stable
 2. have no obvious inflammatory or infectious conditions
 3. are at an intermediate cardiovascular risk who are being considered for initiation of preventative therapy.

Test Utilization

Inflammatory -C-Reactive Protein (CRP) Epic Test Code: LAB149

Consensus reference interval:

< 5 mg/L

When should I order CRP?

- Evaluated for inflammatory disorders
- Tissue injury
- Infections

Cardiac high sensitive C-Reactive Protein (hs-CRP) Epic Test Code: LAB150

Screening cut off levels for hs-CRP :

- Low (<1.0 mg/L)
- Intermediate (1.0-3.0 mg/L)
- High (>3.0 mg/L)

When should I order hs-CRP?

hs-CRP may be used to determine if there is an increased risk in a stable patient with otherwise borderline risk for:

- Stroke,
- Acute Myocardial Events,
- Peripheral Artery Disease

This test should primarily be ordered when patients are out-patients and not when there is a source of inflammation or infection

If there is question on use of this assay, please contact Cardiology