

## Rheumatoid Factor

Test Name (Analyte)	Rheumatoid Factor
Description	Biomarker to help diagnose suspected rheumatoid arthritis but may be found in other inflammatory disease and in various non-rheumatic diseases.
Clinical Indication	Suspected rheumatoid arthritis in patients found to have persistent synovitis.
Patient Preparation	None
Specimen Container	Serum (red cap) or Serum gel (gold cap) or plasma (green cap) or plasma (purple cap)
Container Image	Use images already in lab handbook
Primary Sample Type	Blood
Minimum Volume Required	5 mL
Special Precautions / Requirements	N/A
Transport and Storage Requirements	Transport to laboratory via porter or POD system at room temperature
Reference Interval(s)	<14 IU/mL – negative ≥14 IU/ mL – positive
Telephone Action Limit(s)	N/A
Measurement Units	IU/mL
Clinical Interpretation	<p>Positive: Rheumatoid factor is positive in 70-80% of adults with rheumatoid arthritis. A positive result can also be seen in a number of other conditions including: cryoglobulinemia (very high level), SLE, scleroderma, HIV and other infections, and also in 5% of normal healthy adults (low level).</p> <p>Negative: A negative RF does not exclude rheumatoid arthritis. Where there is a strong clinical suspicion of rheumatoid arthritis disease, anti-CCP is a more appropriate test. Please send a new serum sample for CCP testing. In these patients, a negative result for RF should not delay referral to Rheumatology.</p>

	RF has no value in monitoring of disease activity.
Useful Links / Guidelines	NICE NG100 Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management
Common Interferences / Causes of Spurious Results	Icterus, haemolysis and lipaemic samples may cause negative interference over a certain threshold.
Availability of Clinical Advice	Please discuss with clinical immunologist/consultant immunologist
Significant Change Values	N/A
Testing Frequency / Minimum Re-testing Interval	Not routinely required. RF has no value in monitoring of disease activity.
Related tests	Anti-CCP, ANA, ESR ,CRP
Technology & Analytical Principle Used	<a href="#">Roche immunotubidimetric assay</a>
EQA Scheme	UK NEQAS II&A General Autoimmune Serology
Laboratory Performed	RLH (CSSB)
UKAS Accreditation Status	Not accredited

Form completed by: Ceri Rowe

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Change control completed by:  
(QMS-EXTD-160, LCL Laboratory Handbook)

Date: