Transferrin

Description	Transferrin can be requested as part of iron studies including iron, total iron binding capacity (TIBC) and transferrin saturation.
Indication	Diagnosis of iron deficiency or iron overload.
Additional Info	Transferrin is an iron transport protein regulated by iron regulatory proteins, iron regulatory elements and transferrin receptor mRNA molecules. It is synthesised by the liver and is controlled by iron concentration in the blood. TIBC (umol/L) = transferrin*22.75 (MW of transferrin). % saturation= (iron/TIBC)*100
Concurrent Tests	Part of iron studies.
Dietary Requirements	N/A
Interpretation	Reference range 2.0 – 3.6g/L. Low levels are present in iron overload, high levels in iron deficiency. Should be interpreted in conjunction with other components of iron studies. Chronic liver disease will result in low levels as will protein losing conditions.
Collection Conditions	N/A
Frequency of testing	As required. FBC should be used to monitor iron replacement.