



The Royal College of Pathologists  
Pathology: the science behind the cure



The Association for  
**Clinical Biochemistry**

## **Statement from ACB and RCPATH to all Clinical Biochemistry Laboratories regarding HDL-cholesterol**

Cardiovascular risk assessment in the UK is underpinned by assessment of risk factors that include the measurement of total cholesterol and HDL-cholesterol. The most widely used assessment calculator is based on data from the Framingham study in the USA using a method secondarily referenced to the Center for Diseases Control (CDC) reference method. However, most HDL-cholesterol measurements in the UK (and the rest of the world) are predominantly based on one step analysis in order to meet the demands of current clinical workloads. Recent studies in the UK and the USA suggest that there may be small differences in the results produced by these one step methods compared with the original methods used to measure HDL-cholesterol. In addition some differences can be seen between reagent manufacturers one step methods.

Risk prediction contributes to the detection of cardiovascular disease and in the UK is endorsed by the National Frameworks for Coronary Heart Disease. The contribution of HDL-cholesterol measurement to any risk prediction is small, but given the uncertainty of measurement, Professor Roger Boyle (National Director for Heart and Stroke) will chair a consensus meeting on HDL-cholesterol in the near future to which all relevant National Professional bodies and patient groups will be invited in order to approve an approach for the use of HDL-cholesterol in cardiovascular risk assessment.

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