



Users of laboratories may seek haematology services from various providers using different electronic reporting systems. There is no justification for haematology laboratories to report the primary test, Full Blood Count (FBC), using differing formats and units of measurement; this is confusing for users and does not enhance patient safety. At the request of Dr. Ian Barnes (Clinical Director for Pathology, DH), Pathology Harmony has reviewed the current situation, in collaboration with members of the British Society for Haematology, the Institute of Biomedical Science and the UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme for Haematology. The table below shows the recommendations for reporting units that laboratories should implement. Realising the communication and IT changes that will be required, a timescale for change is also suggested. The aim is to provide a national, standard set of units of measurement for reporting the FBC including the Haemoglobin Level.

Notification: Standardisation of haematological reporting units:

Pathology Harmony is notifying all U.K. laboratories of the requirement to standardise the reporting of units for FBC to those in the table below.

By 31st March 2013 units for reporting FBC should be standardised including the Haemoglobin level and MCHC as g/L

This recommendation is supported by:

- The National Clinical Director for Pathology
- British Committee for Standards in Haematology - Clinical and Laboratory Practice Committee (BCSH – CLPC)
- Royal College of Pathologists
- UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme (UK NEQAS)
- Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)
- Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB)

Pathology Harmony recommends the following planning and actions are undertaken by all laboratories when changing Haemoglobin level reporting to g/L:

- Synchronized adjustment of analyser, point of care and computer systems
- Communication and liaison with all service users
- Updating of all documentation and training materials

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Standardisation of haematological reporting units

Recommendation for Full Blood Count

Analyte name and abbreviations to conform to the National Laboratory Medicine Catalogue (NLMC)

Pathology Harmony Proposal	
Analyte	Units
White blood cell (WBC) count	$\times 10^9/L$
Neutrophil count	$\times 10^9/L$
Lymphocyte count	$\times 10^9/L$
Monocyte count	$\times 10^9/L$
Eosinophil count	$\times 10^9/L$
Basophil count	$\times 10^9/L$
Nucleated red blood cell (NRBC) count	$\times 10^9/L$
Red blood cell (RBC) count	$\times 10^{12}/L$
Haemoglobin (Hb)	g/L
Haematocrit (Hct)	L/L
Mean cell volume (MCV)	fL
Mean cell haemoglobin (MCH)	pg
Mean cell haemoglobin concentration (MCHC)	g/L
Red cell distribution width (RDW)	%
Platelet (PLT) count	$\times 10^9/L$
Reticulocyte (Retic) count	$\times 10^9/L$

It should be noted that analyte terminology should comply with the outcome when known, of the current Open Peer Review of portions of the National Laboratory Medicine Catalogue (NLMC).