



## Rollout of Harmonised Biochemistry Reference Intervals

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Aotea Pathology in conjunction with Wellington and Hutt Hospitals will harmonise a number of biochemistry reference intervals.

**These results should map correctly in your practice management system.**

The purpose of this regional biochemistry harmonisation project is to implement common reference intervals, units and test names where there is sufficient evidence base to support this. You will notice changes in the reference intervals and in some cases, units of measurement for those assays which have been harmonised. An example of changes in electrolyte intervals is shown below:

Test	Ref Interval: Male		New Interval		Ref Interval: Female		New Interval	
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Sodium	135	145	No change		135	145	No change	
Chloride	98	107	95	110	98	107	95	110

This change means that results from different laboratories will have the same reference interval providing consistency to your patient's biochemistry results, regardless of testing location. It will also support any future moves to a regional result repository. It is important to remember that not every assay can be harmonised, and results should be interpreted against the reference intervals and units of the laboratory that produces them.

This work is the culmination of a collaborative project involving community and hospital laboratories in the region. The roll out of these harmonised reference intervals coincides with an upgrade to Wellington and Hutt Hospitals new Laboratory Information System; Sysmex Delphic.

Further information on sample type, methods, paediatric ranges if applicable, units and justification for the reference intervals used is available on our website

<http://www.apath.co.nz/sites/default/files/WELLINGTON%20REGIONAL%20REFERENCE%20INTERVALS%20GROUP.pdf>

If you have any questions you can contact:

**Max Reed**  
Head of Department, Biochemistry  
Ph (04) 3815900 ex 850  
[mreed@apath.co.nz](mailto:mreed@apath.co.nz)