

# Laboratory standard—upper limit of normal range for microalbumin, total milligrams per litre N[NN].N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Laboratory standard—upper limit of normal range for microalbumin, total milligrams per litre N[NN].N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Microalbumin level—upper limit of normal range (milligrams per litre)
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	270334
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 01/03/2005
<b>Definition:</b>	The laboratory standard for the value of microalbumin measured in milligrams per litre (mg/L), that is the upper boundary of the normal reference range.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Laboratory standard—upper limit of normal range for microalbumin</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Total milligrams per litre N[NN].N</a>

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Total	
<b>Data type:</b>	Number	
<b>Format:</b>	N[NN].N	
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	4	
	<b>Value</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	999.9	Not stated/inadequately described
<b>Unit of measure:</b>	Milligram per litre (mg/L)	

## Data element attributes

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	Record the upper limit of the microalbumin normal reference range for the laboratory.
<b>Collection methods:</b>	<p>Microalbumin is not detected by reagent strips for urinary proteins, and requires immunoassay.</p> <p>Measurement of microalbumin levels should be carried out by laboratories, or practices, which have been accredited to perform these tests by the National Association of Testing Authority.</p> <p>As urinary albumin varies with posture and exercise it is important to collect the urine under very standard conditions; short-term (2 hours) during rest, overnight (approximately 8 hours) or an early morning sample. For screening purposes an early morning urine specimen is adequate.</p>

## Source and reference attributes


<b>Submitting organisation:</b>	National Diabetes Data Working Group
<b>Origin:</b>	National Diabetes Outcomes Quality Review Initiative (NDOQRIN) data dictionary.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Is re-engineered from  [Microalbumin - upper limit of normal range, version 1, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (15.8 KB)

*No registration status*

Is re-engineered from  [Microalbumin - units, version 1, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (16.3 KB)

*No registration status*

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Diabetes \(clinical\) DSS](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 21/09/2005

**DSS specific information:**

Microalbuminuria is a strong predictor of macrovascular disease and diabetic nephropathy. Incipient diabetic nephropathy can be detected by urine testing for microalbumin. Incipient diabetic nephropathy is suspected when microalbuminuria is detected in 2 of 3 samples collected over a 6-month period in patients in whom other causes of an increased urinary albumin excretion have been excluded.

Diagnosis of microalbuminuria is established if 2 of the 3 measurements are abnormal. A small amount of protein (albumin) in the urine (microalbuminuria) is an early sign of kidney damage.

If microalbuminuria is present:

- review diabetes control and improve if necessary
- consider treatment with Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor
- consider referral to a physician experienced in the care of diabetic renal disease

If macroalbuminuria is present:

- quantitate albuminuria by measuring 24-hour urinary protein.
- refer to a physician experienced in the care of diabetic renal disease.

[Diabetes \(clinical\) NBPDS](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 21/09/2005

**DSS specific information:**

Microalbuminuria is a strong predictor of macrovascular disease and diabetic nephropathy. Incipient diabetic nephropathy can be detected by urine testing for microalbumin. Incipient diabetic nephropathy is suspected when microalbuminuria is detected in 2 of 3 samples collected over a 6-month period in patients in whom other causes of an increased urinary albumin excretion have been excluded.

Diagnosis of microalbuminuria is established if 2 of the 3 measurements are abnormal. A small amount of protein (albumin) in the urine (microalbuminuria) is an early sign of kidney damage.

If microalbuminuria is present:

- review diabetes control and improve if necessary
- consider treatment with Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor
- consider referral to a physician experienced in the care of diabetic renal disease

If macroalbuminuria is present:

- quantify albuminuria by measuring 24-hour urinary protein.
- refer to a physician experienced in the care of diabetic renal disease.