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# Microalbumin - upper limit of normal range

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**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NHDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000833                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 01-MAR-05  
Definition: Laboratory standard for the value of microalbumin that is the upper boundary of the normal reference range.  
Context: Public health, health care and clinical settings.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE  
Representation layout: NNN.N  
Minimum Size: 3  
Maximum Size: 5  
Data Domain: 999.9                      Not stated/Inadequately described  
                    NOVAL                      Measured value  
Guide For Use: Record the upper limit of the microalbumin normal reference range for the Laboratory  
Collection Methods: Microalbumin is not detected by reagent strips for urinary proteins, and requires immunoassay.  
  
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.  
Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Microalbumin/protein - measured version 1  
                    is qualified by Microalbumin - units version 1

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## Administrative Attributes

Source Document: National Diabetes Outcomes Quality Review Initiative (NDOQRIN) data dictionary.

Source Organisation: National Diabetes Data Working Group

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Comments: 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 two of three samples collected over a six-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 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.

## Data Element Links

### *Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM    Surveillance / monitoring event

### *Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

DSS - Diabetes (clinical)    From 01-Jan-03 to

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