

Risk 201 - Low Hemoglobin or Hematocrit

Risk description

Hemoglobin (hgb) and Hematocrit (hct) tests screen for iron deficiency anemia (low blood iron). Smoking and living at higher altitudes changes the hgb/hct blood levels that make a participant at risk. See Policy 675 for a complete list of hgb/hct risk levels based on category, age, altitude and smoking.

Reason for risk

Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia in women and children. Anemia can impair energy metabolism and immune function. Iron is an important component of blood needed by women for healthy pregnancies and for recovery after childbirth and by children for normal growth and development.

Category	All
Risk level	Medium (see criteria below for changing risk level to High)
At risk if:	Infants Birth to 8 months No hgb/hct testing
	Infants 9 to under 12 months Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%
	Children 12 to under 24 months Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%
	Children 2 to 5 years Hgb: 10.1 to 11.0 Hct: 30% to 32.9%
	Pregnant women (0 to 13 weeks) Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%

	<p>Pregnant women (14 to 26 weeks) Hgb: 9.5 to 10.4 Hct: 28.5% to 31.9%</p>
	<p>Pregnant women (27 to 40 weeks) Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%</p>
	<p>Postpartum women Hgb: 11 to 11.9 Hct: 33% to 35.9%</p>
Not at risk if:	Hemoglobin or hematocrit levels are above the ranges listed above.
How is risk assigned?	Data system assigned based on hemoglobin values entered into the data system. Data system automatically adjusts for altitude.
Additional documentation	Manually change risk level to High in the data system when a hgb value is more than one point below or a hct level is more than 3% below the levels listed above (see guidelines below). A referral to the RD is required when the risk level is changed to High.
Change risk level to high when:	<p>Infants 9 to under 12 months Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower</p>
	<p>Children 12 to under 24 months Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower</p>
	<p>Children 2 to 5 years Hgb: 10.0 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower</p>
	<p>Pregnant women (0 to 13 weeks) Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower</p>

	Pregnant women (14 to 26 weeks) Hgb: 9.4 or lower Hct: 28.9% or lower
	Pregnant women (27 to 40 weeks) Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower
	Postpartum women Hgb: 10.9 or lower Hct: 32.9% or lower