



Dear Physician,

Adverse outcomes of chronic kidney disease (CKD) can often be prevented or delayed through early detection and treatment. According to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) is the most effective method to determine if a person has CKD. eGFR is based on a person's serum creatinine, age, gender, and race.

CIGNA is requesting that LabCorp automatically include the eGFR on lab reports for its participants when a serum creatinine has been requested and the age and gender is provided. The eGFR calculation will only apply to patients 18 years and older and will provide a result for both African and non-African Americans. The inclusion of the eGFR will not increase the cost of the lab test. We hope you find this information helpful.

Among patients with chronic kidney disease, the stage of disease should be assigned based on the level of kidney function, irrespective of diagnosis, according to the NKF's Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (K/DOQI) CKD classification:

Stage	eGFR (mL/min/1.73m ²)
Stage 1	Kidney damage with normal GFR = or > 90
Stage 2	Kidney damage with mild decrease in GFR 60 - 89
Stage 3	Kidney damage with moderate decrease in GFR 30 - 59
Stage 4	Kidney damage with severe decrease in GFR 15 - 29
Stage 5	Kidney failure < 15

According to the NKF KDOQI guidelines, patients with CKD should be referred to a specialist for consultation and co-management if the clinical action plan cannot be prepared, the prescribed evaluation of the patient cannot be carried out, or the recommended treatment cannot be carried out. In general, patients with GFR < 30 mL/min/1.73m² should be referred to a nephrologist, however, patients with eGFR results between 30 and 60 mL/min/1.73m² should be evaluated for the presence of urine microalbumin and other risk factors associated with CKD such as hypertension and diabetes.

Please see the attached link for the complete version of the KDOQI Guidelines:

<http://www.kidney.org/professionals/KDOQI/guidelines>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Salmon".

Dick Salmon, MD/PhD
Senior National Medical Director
CIGNA HealthCare

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