

## RBC Folate Testing – Test Discontinued

**Orderable:** FOLATE RBC [LAB70]

**Effective January 9, 2026, RBC Folate testing will be discontinued due to assay discontinuation by LabCorp and in alignment with current national guidance.**

### **Explanation:**

Red Blood Cell (RBC) folate is currently sent to LabCorp. Studies have shown that RBC folate testing does not have diagnostic value for diagnosis of folate deficiency and RBC folate testing is not recommended by national guidelines<sup>1,2</sup>. Therefore, LabCorp is discontinuing the test effective January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Clinical information obtained from **serum folate** testing has been found to be equivalent to RBC folate testing, and serum folate levels may better reflect the effectiveness of folate therapy<sup>2</sup>. Serum folate is performed by the VCUH Clinical Chemistry Laboratory and is the recommended test when folate evaluation is indicated.

### **Recommendation:**

When clinically indicated, **serum folate** should be ordered using the EPIC orderable procedure:

**FOLATE [LAB69].**

### **Sources:**

1. American Society for Clinical Pathology. *Choosing Wisely: 35 Recommendations for Laboratory Medicine*.

Available at: [https://ascpcontentwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/content/docs/default-source/istp/cw\\_35recommendations.pdf](https://ascpcontentwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/content/docs/default-source/istp/cw_35recommendations.pdf)

2. College of American Pathologists. *RBC Folate Clinician Handout*.  
<https://documents.cap.org/documents/RBCFolateClinicianHandout-112923.pdf>

**For questions, please contact Pathology Client Services at 804-828-7284 (8-PATH).**