

## Laboratory Medicine Care Division

Immunology

# Rheumatoid factor

## General information

**Specimen transport:** At room temperature

**Repeat frequency:** At significant change of clinical symptoms

**Special precautions:** None

## Laboratory information

**Normal reference range:** 0-13 kIU/L

**Volume and sample type:** 4ml serum

**Method:** Turbidimetry

**Turnaround time (calendar days from sample receipt to authorised result):** Median – 2

**Participation in EQA Scheme:** UK NEQAS for Rheumatoid Antibodies

## Clinical information

**Indications for the test:** Aid for the prognosis of RA and Sjögren's syndrome in the presence of an erosive arthropathy.

Rheumatoid factor is not useful in the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, it has a limited role in predicting the risk of complications particularly vasculitis.

**Factors affecting the test:** Disease activity: only 70-80% of patients with confirmed RA have positive rheumatoid factor. Detected in 2-10% of general population.

Elevated titres may also accompany a variety of acute immune responses particularly infections (50%), liver disease, Sarcoidosis, and SLE.

(Last updated January 2026)