



Change in units for HbA_{1c}

Glycated haemoglobin (HbA_{1c}) has traditionally been reported as a percentage of total haemoglobin. From 1 June 2009, UK laboratories began reporting HbA_{1c} in new units. This change is due to the development of a standardised reference method for measuring HbA_{1c} and also a move to using the Standard International (SI) unit of millimoles of HbA_{1c} per mole of Hb (mmol/mol).¹ Until 31 May 2011, laboratories will provide two sets of results (% and mmol/mol) when reporting a patient's HbA_{1c} value. From 1 June 2011, the measurement will be only in mmol/mol.

In the meantime, to help healthcare professionals adjust to the new way of reporting, *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin (DTB)* offers the conversion chart below. For more background information on the change in units for HbA_{1c}, please see *A change in units for HbA_{1c}* (DTB 2010; 48: 23–4).

Conversion chart for HbA _{1c} values	
HbA _{1c} (%)	HbA _{1c} (mmol/mol)
4.0	20
4.5	26
5.0	31
5.5	37
6.0	42
6.5	48
7.0	53
7.5	59
8.0	64
8.5	70
9.0	75
9.5	81
10.0	86

¹ Barth JH et al. Consensus meeting on reporting glycated haemoglobin and estimated average glucose in the UK: report to the National Director for Diabetes, Department of Health. *Ann Clin Biochem* 2008; 45: 343–4.