

02 September 2026

Awanui is changing to age adjusted reference ranges for D-dimers

This notice is to advise that Awanui Laboratories in Canterbury are changing the reference ranges to the D-dimer assays in line with current guidelines and to align ranges across the Awanui group.

Date of effect: 27th October 2026

The recommendation is to use an age adjusted range and is evidence based in the following articles:

1. Diagnostic accuracy of conventional or age adjusted D-dimer cut-off values in older patients with suspected venous thromboembolism: systematic review and meta-analysis (Henrike J Schouten et al. BMJ 2013;346 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.f2492>)
2. Age-adjusted D-dimer cutoff levels to rule out pulmonary embolism: the ADJUST-PE study (Marc Righini et al. JAMA 2014 Mar 19;311(11):1117-24)

The new reference ranges are therefore:

Age	Reference range(ug/L)	Telephone criteria(ug/L)
<50 years	500	>500
51-60 years	<600	>600
61-70 years	<700	>700
71-80 years	<800	>800
81-90 years	<900	>900
91 years and over	<1000	>1000

'Positive' D-dimer results will only be phoned out of hours AND if the requestor has indicated they wish to be called and supplied a phone number for a medical professional who can manage the result at all hours (i.e., clinician mobile).



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