

2. AACC Endocrinology Division Survey & Responses: Standardized Reference Intervals for thyroid testing

27 individuals responded to the survey (estimated response rate: 20%). Almost all respondents had a PhD and/or MD degree, 33% worked in a hospital, 26% worked in academia, and 11% worked in industry. The majority worked in the role of director or administrator.

Question	Yes	No
Has the laboratory you are working with an adequate communication policy to inform you in advance about the upcoming change, e.g., via intranet/electronic updates, local meetings, etc.?	85%	15%
Has the laboratory a good policy to highlight the changed reference intervals on the reports you receive, e.g., in bold, in color, etc.?	67%	33%
Are you satisfied about the duration your laboratory highlights the changed reference interval	70%	30%
Are you in favor of parallel reporting old/new reference intervals for some time?	33%	67%
Would you like to see on the report the mathematical relationship between the old and new values?	33%	67%
Does the laboratory pay attention to implement the changes also in recommended treatment protocols, e.g., a protocol that proposed, before the change, a TSH level of 3 mIU/L to reflect adequate treatment after thyroidectomy, does the laboratory adapt	44%	56%
Has the laboratory a good policy to avoid any misinterpretation of longitudinal results, e.g., by clearly mentioning on reports giving an overview of the patient's laboratory history against which reference intervals the past and current results n...	52%	48%
Do you estimate the chance for misinterpretation after a considerable change likely?	48%	52%
Do you give the laboratory report on thyroid function testing to your patients?	48%	52%
Do you think your patients know their laboratory values?	67%	33%
Do you communicate the impact of the change of reference intervals on the current versus old laboratory values?	42%	58%