Frequently Asked Questions - Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He)

1. **What is the definition of the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He)?**
   - Reticulocyte hemoglobin equivalent is the amount of hemoglobin in each reticulocyte reported in picograms. Reticulocytes are immature red blood cells with a life span in peripheral blood of 1 to 2 days, before they mature to RBC. When reticulocytes are first released from the bone marrow, measurement of their hemoglobin content can provide a measure of erythropoiesis.

2. **Has the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter been cleared by the FDA?**
   - Yes, the RET-He parameter has been cleared by the FDA on the following analyzers: Sysmex XN-Series™, Sysmex XE-Series™, and Sysmex XT- Series™.

3. **What is the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter FDA Intended Use Statement?**
   - The RET-He parameter on the Sysmex XE and XT automated hematology analyzers determines the hemoglobin of reticulocytes for in vitro diagnostic use in clinical laboratories. The XN-Series modules classify and enumerate the following parameters in whole blood: RET-He.

4. **How is the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter generated on the analyzer?**
   - The Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter is generated utilizing fluorescent flow cytometry in the Reticulocyte channel of the Sysmex XN, XE or XT analyzers. When a reticulocyte analysis is ordered, the Immature Reticulocyte Fraction (IRF) and the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameters are also generated, extending the reticulocyte panel from two reportable parameters to three. There is no additional pre-analytical preparation time or extra reagents that are necessary to generate the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter.

5. **Is there quality control material available for the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter?**
   - Yes, three levels of XN CHECK™, e-CHECK™ and e-CHECK™ (XE) QC material are available for the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-
6. **Is there a proficiency testing survey available for the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter?** - Yes, the College of American Pathologists (CAP) proficiency testing program provides a survey. The Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) is tested on the RT-4 survey.

7. **What are the operational benefits of the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter?** – The Reticulocyte Hemoglobin parameter requires no pre-analytic preparation or reagents other than those used for reticulocyte analysis. It is easy to perform and can be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

8. **Are there limitations to usefulness of the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He) parameter?** – Thalassemia patients may have lower RET-He results due to a small size of the RBCs.

9. **How does RET-He compare to the CHr parameter?** – The Sysmex RET-He parameter is a measurement of the reticulocyte hemoglobin equivalent which is similar to the reticulocyte hemoglobin content (CHr) parameter available on Siemens ADVIA® 120 and 2120 automated analyzers. Studies demonstrate RET-He has similar normal reference intervals as CHr.

10. **Is there a CPT® Code or reimbursement available for the Reticulocyte Hemoglobin (RET-He)?** – A specific CPT code has not been assigned to Reticulocyte Hemoglobin. There is a CPT code for the reticulocyte count (85045) and a separate code for a reticulocyte count + 1 additional retic parameter, which can be either the IRF or RET-He (85046). All billing and reimbursement decisions should be made in conjunction with your coding and billing departments.

*Note: This information is provided as a courtesy for informational purposes only and is not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as, reimbursement or billing advice. Health care professionals are responsible for determining appropriate reimbursement policies, including applicable CPT code assignment. Sysmex America, Inc., does not guarantee third-party coverage or payment for products or provide remuneration to customers for claims that are denied by third-party payers.*