

# SERUM IRON AND TOTAL IRON BINDING CAPACITY (TIBC)

## **About This Test**

Serum iron, total iron-binding capacity (TIBC) and a calculated transferrin saturation determine how much iron is being carried in the blood. These tests are used together to detect and help diagnose too little or too much iron. In people with anemia, these tests can help determine whether the condition is due to too little iron or another cause, like a chronic illness. Iron tests are also ordered if a doctor suspects that a person has iron overload and to screen for hereditary hemochromatosis, a condition associated with too much iron. Early iron deficiency usually causes no concern. As iron continue to be depleted, signs that your body is low in iron may develop. Eventually, anemia may develop and some of the symptoms may include chronic fatigue, dizziness, weakness, and headaches.

# What Should I Do With My Results?

It is always recommended that you meet with a doctor to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you. Your doctor will review all of your test results and, combined with your health history, he or she will be able to provide an accurate picture of your health status.

If any of your results were abnormal or out-of-range: Low levels of iron can be caused by many factors but may indicate anemia. Low levels can also occur during adolescence and pregnancy when the body has increased demands for iron. Low TIBC could be associated with malnutrition, kidney disease, or liver disease. High levels of iron in the blood can occur as the result of multiple blood transfusions, iron injections into muscle, lead poisoning, liver disease, or kidney disease. It can also be due to the genetic disease, hemochromatosis. As with any abnormal results, it's important that you discuss their implications with your physician.

**If your results were within normal range**: If your results fall within the normal range, we suggest discussing the need for any future testing with your physician.

# **How Do I Obtain My Results?**

Results are available through our online patient portal, My Labs Now<sup>™</sup>. Visit www.compunetlab.com to sign in or setup an account. Or text MYLABS to 66349. Follow The signup link in the text message you receive. Please be sure your name exactly matches the name on your lab test order. Contact help@luminatehealth.com if you need assistance. CompuNet is unable to provide verbal results to patients.

### I Do Not Have a Regular Doctor. Where Can I Find One?

If you do not have a doctor, we recommend the following resources to locate one:

Premier Health Find a Doctor (937) 684-4155 or 1-855-PREMIER www.premierhealth.com/findadoc WebMD Care www.doctor.webmd.com

CompuNet DIRECT is direct access, preventative testing intended for education purposes. A CompuNet DIRECT lab test result is not a medical diagnosis and is not intended as a form of medical advice. Only a physician can interpret lab test results and diagnose a medical condition or disease.

Because tests have not been ordered by a physician, third-party entities, including Medicare and Medicaid, will not reimburse for these tests.