

COLA Technical Bulletin

2025-1: Change to the Manual White Blood Cell Differential Test

As of March 10, 2025, changes to the nomenclature for testing under the All Manual WBC Diff Procedures instrument/method will become effective. These changes are necessary to comply with new CLIA regulations requiring proficiency testing for manual and automated white blood cell differentials.

The test, Blood Cell Identification, now must be selected under the instrument/method, All Manual WBC Diff Procedures, to ensure the appropriate test for a manual white blood cell differential is added. For laboratories that currently have All Manual WBC Diff Procedures on their test menus, an update will automatically take place. The test, White Blood Cell Differential (WBC Diff), now must only be used when adding an automated WBC differential test to all other instruments/analyzers.

Below is an example of the previous and new views of the Add Test System screen when adding a manual WBC differential test in COLAcentral.

Previous view of adding a manual white blood cell differential test to the test menu in COLAcentral:

INSTRUMENT	SPECIALTY	TEST	# TESTS	COMPLEXITY
All Manual WBC Diff Procedures	Routine Hematology	White Blood Cell Differential (WBC Diff)	1	Moderate

New view of adding a manual white blood cell differential test to the test menu in COLAcentral:

INSTRUMENT	SPECIALTY	TEST	# TESTS	COMPLEXITY
All Manual WBC Diff Procedures	Routine Hematology	Blood Cell Identification	1	Moderate

If the laboratory performs both Blood Cell Identification and White Blood Cell Differentials (WBC Diff), please ensure that both tests are listed on the test menu.