

# Risk 201 A/B - Low Hemoglobin or Hematocrit

## Risk description

Hemoglobin (hgb) and Hematocrit (hct) tests screen for iron deficiency anemia (low blood iron). Smoking and living at higher altitudes changes the hgb/hct blood levels that make a participant at risk. See [Policy 675](#) for a complete list of hgb/hct risk levels based on category, age, altitude and smoking.

## Reason for risk

Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia in women and children. Anemia can impair energy metabolism and immune function. Iron is an important component of blood needed by women for healthy pregnancies and for recovery after childbirth and by children for normal growth and development.

<b>Category</b>	All
<b>Risk level</b>	201A, low hgb/hct: Medium 201B, very low hgb/hct: High
<b>201A, at risk if:</b>	<b>Infants Birth to 8 months</b> N/A, no hgb/hct testing
	<b>Infants 9 to under 12 months</b> Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%
	<b>Children 12 to under 24 months</b> Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%
	<b>Children 2 to 5 years</b> Hgb: 10.1 to 11.0 Hct: 30% to 32.9%

	<b>Pregnant women (0 to 13 weeks)</b> Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%
	<b>Pregnant women (14 to 26 weeks)</b> Hgb: 9.5 to 10.4 Hct: 29% to 31.9%
	<b>Pregnant women (27 to 40 weeks)</b> Hgb: 10 to 10.9 Hct: 30% to 32.9%
	<b>Postpartum women</b> Hgb: 11 to 11.9 Hct: 32.7% to 35.6%
<b>Not at risk if:</b>	Hemoglobin or hematocrit levels are above the ranges listed above.
<b>How is risk assigned?</b>	Data system assigned based on hemoglobin values entered into the data system. Data system automatically adjusts for altitude.
<b>Additional documentation for 201A</b>	None if 201A is assigned. Please see below for 201B documentation requirements.
<b>201B, at risk if:</b>	<b>Infants 9 to under 12 months</b> Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower
	<b>Children 12 to under 24 months</b> Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower
	<b>Children 2 to 5 years</b> Hgb: 10.0 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower
	<b>Pregnant women (0 to 13 weeks)</b> Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower

	<b>Pregnant women (14 to 26 weeks)</b> Hgb: 9.4 or lower Hct: 28.9% or lower
	<b>Pregnant women (27 to 40 weeks)</b> Hgb: 9.9 or lower Hct: 29.9% or lower
	<b>Postpartum women</b> Hgb: 10.9 or lower Hct: 32.6% or lower
<b>Additional documentation for 201B</b>	Documentation of Hgb/Hct recheck (if taken in the clinic) is required. A referral to the RD is required when the hgb/hct is very low and risk 201B is assigned.