Clinical Use
• Assess glucose control (short-term, 1-2 weeks) in patients with diabetes, especially those with pregnancy-associated diabetes

Reference Range
Adults and children 0.8-1.4%

Interpretive Information
• Uncontrolled diabetes
• Hyperglycemia
• Microvascular disease/diabetic complications
• Relatively, with improved diabetic control

Clinical Background
Glucose forms stable glycoproteins with many plasma proteins by a nonenzymatic reaction. Among the plasma proteins, albumin is quantitatively the most important glycated protein. Concentrations of glycated albumin are high in diabetic patients and have been shown to be proportional to the degree of hyperglycemia. Since albumin turns over in 1 to 2 weeks, glycated albumin determinations are useful for monitoring short-term glucose control in diabetic patients. In contrast, glycated hemoglobin, which has a half-life of 120 days, is best for assessment of long-term control in such patients.

Method
• Affinity column chromatography
• % glycated albumin is based on percentage of microalbumin relative to amount of total albumin.

Specimen Requirements
3 mL refrigerated EDTA plasma
2 mL minimum
Overnight fasting required