INDICATIONS FOR TESTING
Symptoms of tissue hypoxia (eg, fatigue, weakness, pallor, dizziness, fainting)

ORDER
CBC with Platelet Count and Automated Differential

No
Anemia present on CBC (males, Hgb <13 g/dL; females, Hgb <12 g/dL)
Consider other potential causes of symptoms

Yes
Classify by RBC indices

Low MCV (microcytic)
Evaluate for microcytic anemia

Normal MCV (normocytic)
ORDER
Reticulocytes, Percent and Number
Calculate corrected reticulocyte count
Elevated corrected reticulocyte count
No
Evaluate for anemia of inflammation: examine peripheral smear
Yes
Rule out blood loss and hemolysis

High MCV (macrocytic)
ORDER
Reticulocytes, Percent and Number
Calculate corrected reticulocyte count
Elevated corrected reticulocyte count
No
Rule out blood loss and hemolysis
Yes
Evaluate for megaloblastic anemia (including examination of peripheral blood smear for hypersegmented neutrophils); consider bone marrow examination

Abbreviations
MCV Mean corpuscular volume
RBC Red blood cell