**Anemia Testing**

**Indications for Testing**
Symptoms of tissue hypoxia (e.g., fatigue, weakness, pallor, dizziness, fainting)

**ORDER**
CBC with platelet count and automated differential

- **No** 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** Evaluate for megaloblastic anemia (including examination of peripheral blood smear for hypersegmented neutrophils); consider bone marrow examination
      - **Yes** Rule out blood loss and hemolysis

Abbreviations:
- Hb: Hemoglobin
- MCV: Mean corpuscular volume
- RBC: Red blood cell