

## Changes in Laboratory Analysers

Dear All,

Please note that on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, the biochemistry laboratory at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals will be switching from its previous analysers to new, state of the art analytical equipment, which is part of the transformation to a pathology network.

Whilst the equipment is changing, we are remaining with the same commercial partner, and therefore the majority of biochemistry blood test reference ranges and limits will remain the same. There are, however, some differences and these are noted in the table below. We would ask that all users are vigilant around results that they received and ensure they have familiarised themselves with the new ranges.

Test	Change
Vitamin B12	<p>Due to the poor performance of the total vitamin B12 assay we will be moving to the Active B12 assay.</p> <p>The results will be reported with new ranges and interpretation. If there are any concerns please contact the on-call haematologist for advice and guidance.</p>
PTH	<p>Due to a change in provider of PTH, there will be a change in method used to test PTH and therefore a change in the reference range.</p> <p>The new reference range for PTH is as follows; <b>PTH: 2.7-11.1 nmol/L</b></p> <p>A comment will be added to highlight the new method and change in reference range.</p> <p>Please can clinicians familiarise themselves with the new range.</p>
bHCG	<p>The HCG assay provided by the equipment supplier is only validated for use in pregnancy.</p> <p>The HCG test used for monitoring tumours will be referred to another analytical platform within the BCPS network and will have a 5 day turn around.</p> <p>There will therefore be two tests available to select for this test – please ensure you have requested the correct test for the clinical scenario.</p>

	<p>For both Unity and ICE new orders will be available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hCG (pregnancy)</li> <li>• hCG (tumour marker)</li> </ul> <p>It will ultimately be the responsibility of the clinician to ensure the correct one is selected. A pop-up info box will appear in Unity to prompt requesters to check. Info will also be added to ICE.</p>
Urine HCG	<p>Quantitative Urine HCG is a non-validated assay with the current supplier and therefore will no longer be available. If clinically indicated serum HCG is available to confirm pregnancy.</p> <p>Urine pregnancy test can be obtained via POCT for hospital locations. Locations outside the hospital will need to make their own provisions.</p>
Oestradiol	<p>The new supplier Oestradiol assay has a lower measuring limit of 88 pmol/L. Oestradiol reference ranges may fall below the limit of measurement for some patient groups.</p> <p>In cases where the oestradiol levels fall below 88 (&lt;88) pmol/L a more accurate measurement will be requestable and will be a referral test.</p> <p>Where this test is performed in children &lt;12 years of age, it will be referred to another analytical platform within the BCPS network and will have a 5 day turnaround.</p> <p>Where this test is used for monitoring tumours will be referred to another analytical platform within the BCPS network and will have a 5 day turnaround.</p>

Please note that as this is the first phase of the development of the biochemistry laboratory, some processes will be more manual over the next few months, until the final solution is delivered in the Autumn. We will be working to minimise disruption to users during this time that the works are on going.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the biochemistry laboratory