

MEETING DATE:
7TH JUNE 2024

North & East Devon PATHOLOGY GP NEWS LETTER

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GPS ATTENDING:

LAURENCE HENNING
📍 HORTON SURGERY, OUR COMMITTEE FOR LAC

EMMA GREEN
📍 ST THOMAS PRACTICE, EXETER

HARRIET JONES-PALSH
📍 JURY COUNTY PRACTICE, NORTH DEVON

LAB ATTENDING:

MANDY PERRY (ONLINE)
📍 BLOOD SCIENCES, SOUTH EASTERN

GEORGE ALLEN
📍 BLOOD SCIENCES, SOUTH EASTERN

MARY STAPULTON
📍 BLOOD SCIENCES, SOUTH WESTERN

OWEN GARR
📍 PATHOLOGY IT, SOUTH WESTERN & EASTERN

JAY DENHAM-JOHNSON
📍 MICROBIOLOGY, SOUTH EASTERN

CLAIR GILBERTBY
📍 BLOOD SCIENCES, SOUTH EASTERN

1. CHANGES TO CA125 REQUESTING & A NOTE ON BEST PRACTICE

There are some upcoming changes to CA125 requesting within ICE, along with age-based guidance being provided at the point of requesting. The patient's age-range will need to be selected within the pop-up at the point of request.

Please note that best practice when ordering tests on ICE which require additional input at the point of request (i.e. Cortisol, TSH, allergy) is that they should be:

- Ordered by a registered healthcare professional directly responsible for the patient in question (i.e. GP or registered nurse);
- Ordered in advance of bloods being collected;

and

- That any pop-up questions are answered fully and accurately;

The inputs provided at the point of request are used for result interpretation and cascading of further tests. There are instances of inappropriate tests and comments being added to requests, and delaying urgent results being phoned due to boxes just being ticked in order to clear the pop-ups.

2. FIT AND CALPROTECTIN ANALYSIS: AVOIDING DELAYS

Did you know Exeter Biochemistry have received over **40,000** FIT requests in the last 6 months?

We still receive many Calprotectin and FIT pickers on paper request forms, with no corresponding request in ICE. These take a lot longer for the lab teams to book in, especially when a requesting GP cannot be identified. This delays analysis and reporting and increases the risk of delaying referrals of patients to the ZWW list. To help us analyse your patients' samples as quickly as possible, please make sure to add the request in ICE before the sample collection kit is sent to the patient.

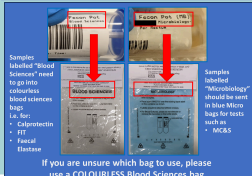
Not sure which collection device to give your patient?

We acknowledge that the different collection devices for stool samples can cause some confusion. The pickers have different preservatives in depending on the test needed. Please use the guide below to help your team provide the right device(s) for your patients.

Not sure which sample bag to use?

If FIT, Calprotectin, or Faecal Elastase samples are sent in blue microbiology bags, they are sent to a different lab in another part of the hospital, and often take another day to reach blood sciences.

To help us process FIT, Calprotectin, and Faecal Elastase samples quicker, please make sure your team are using CLEAR & COLOURLESS biochemistry bags to send these to the Blood Sciences lab.



3. NEW BARIATRIC ORDER SETS

New bariatric order sets will soon be made available on ICE following standardisation across the Peninsula. These new order sets are in line with best practice and have been developed with the gastric bypass team at Torbay.

Order sets will appear in ICE under the names below

ICE Bariatric Order Set Names:

- Bariatric AGB or Balloon 3 & 12 mths and annually
- Bariatric DS or BPD 3 & 12 months and annually
- Bariatric RYGB or SG 3 & 6 months
- Bariatric RYGB or SG 12 months and annually
- Bariatric AGB Preconception 3 m post pregnancy
- Bariatric RYGB SG BPD DS pregnancy 3 m post preg
- Bariatric AGB pregnancy monitoring
- Bariatric RYGB SG BPD DS pregnancy monitoring
- BMI 50plus pregnancy monitoring group
- Bariatric nutritional concern

4. CHANGE REQUESTS FOR ICE

The Pathology IT team will be implementing a standardized change request form going forward. The link to the form will be made available from within ICE. Any requests for changes or additions to ICE should be made using these forms going forward. Completed forms along with any supporting evidence can then be emailed to the pathology IT team

5. USE OF URINE POTS

Please refrain from using the yellow-topped Kima urine pots and tubes for in-house Dipstix testing. These are being disproportionately requested from Path Stores, with the Trust picking up the cost.

The plain, white-topped universal tubes are best suited for in-house urine testing. They also cost much less than the Kima pots, and can be discarded of in normal clinical waste, rather than the sharps waste (which adds further cost to the use of the Kima pots).



6. CYTOLOGY - POST VASECTOMY SEMEN ANALYSIS

Following the retirement of Dr Mark Watson (St Thomas HC), any advice and result interpretation for the PVSA service performed at Wonford Cytology will be carried out by Dr Richard Wise, and Dr Claire Tomlinson (St Thomas HC). They can be contacted via 01392 676676; further information can be found on the Exeter Laboratory Website ([link below](#)).

Please also be advised that PVSA is based at the Wonford Site in Exeter, and is performed by a separate laboratory service to Fertility Services. As such, they have a different process for requests, and their own information sheets for patients.

Further details can be found here: [Click Here for PVSA Services Information](#)

7. WELCOME TO FERTILITY SERVICES!

We would like to welcome Fertility Services to our Group!

Fertility services are now represented at the Pathology-GP Liaison meetings, and any issues, comments, or compliments for the Fertility service are welcome to be raised through this pathway.

You can now request semen analysis through ICE!

Please use ICE for any semen requests going forward.

Guidance on requesting and interpretation will be uploaded to the Devon Formulary in the coming weeks, with some further guidance notes to be made available on the Exeter Formulary website ([link below](#)). [Click here for Exeter Fertility Services Information](#)

Please note that Fertility Services are based at our Heavitree site in Exeter, and are provided by a different laboratory service to that of PVSA (Please see above).

Referrals for PVSA must be sent to the Cytology PVSA service at Wonford.

8. TTG REQUEST CLARIFICATION

Following some feedback on TTG and cascaded IgG endomyxial antibody tests, the Blood Sciences Clinical Scientist team have offered the following clarification:

IgG endomyxial Abs will be automatically added on by the laboratory to a patient request when a TTG is negative, and the resultant IgA is deficient.

Please be aware that IgA is only considered deficient when it is less than 0.2 g/L, and not just beneath the reference range. No action is required from requesting clinicians.

9. ABNORMAL RESULT FLAGS ON MC&S REPORTS IN SYSTMONE

Please be advised that Pathology have been made aware of an abnormal flag showing in inappropriate places on reports for MC&S in SystmOne (For example, they may appear next to an antibiotic in the sensitivity list).

This has been an ongoing issue since the rollout of EPIC, and unfortunately a fix has not been found. Please note that this issue is limited to SystmOne.

10. HELP US HELP YOU: BEST PRACTICE FOR REQUESTING ON ICE

We would love your help in improving our turnaround times for booking in samples!

To help the reception team in Blood Sciences get your samples booked in and ready for analysis as quickly as possible, please note the best practice points below:

1. Make sure all requests for patients in ICE have an NHS number.

We use automated systems to receive most of our samples. If there isn't an NHS number on the ICE request, the system cannot automatically pull the request into EPIC, which delays the sample being analysed.

If your patient does not have an NHS number, you can use a paper request form. Our reception team can then easily identify these samples and quickly book them in by hand.

2. If a repeat sample is needed, a new request needs to be made.

ICE labels have a unique identifier on each of them, and are designed to only be used once. Reusing labels is highly likely to lead to the samples being lost and tests not being performed.

Please make sure your team are aware of this so we can make sure repeat tests are analysed as quickly as possible for your patients.

3. Avoid using the 'Clinical Details' box for additional requests.

Our automated system will not be able to see these or add them.

If you are struggling to find a specific test in ICE, please contact the reception team at rduh.bsaddon@nhs.net.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve the newsletter, or make it more accessible, please feel free to contact the Chair of the Pathology-GP Liaison meetings, Mandy Perry at mandy.perry@nhs.net

We are also happy to provide printable versions of any images or diagrams provided.

Thanks for reading!

Sam & the Pathology & GP Liaison Team