

CLINICAL UPDATE - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Below are the changes to take effect from 1 November 2015

This information may also be found on the website www.wellingtonscl.co.nz

| MICROBIOLOGY | TEST INFORMATION CHANGES |
|--|---|
| Vaginal swabs - Trichomonas testing | Vaginal swabs will be tested for Bacterial Vaginosis and Candida - Trichomonas testing will only be carried out when requested. |
| Blood Culture bottles | Blood Cultures will only be processed using BactiAlert bottles. (Please ensure you order BactiAlert bottles stores@apath.co.nz before 1 November and dispose of any Bactec bottles) |
| MOLECULAR BIOLOGY | TEST INFORMATION CHANGES |
| Chlamydia swabs | Due to a platform change to test for Chlamydia and Neisseria gonorrhoea, new test kits will be required. If you have not received new kits by the last week in October please order from the stores department stores@apath.co.nz . NB: The Cobas swabs you are currently using will be unable to be processed after 1 November. Please remove all Cobas swabs from your storage areas. Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea testing will only be performed on children under the age of 14 years when approved by a microbiologist. |
| Herpes Simplex PCR (HSV) | When requesting HSV a result for Herpes Zoster will be included. |
| HAEMATOLOGY | TEST INFORMATION CHANGES |
| INR reporting | A PT which is routinely done at the same time as the INR will now be included in the result you receive. Auto faxing of INRs will continue as currently. |
| Platelet Function Assay (PFA) | Due to the time requirements for PFA testing patients must be advised to attend the collection facilities at Wellington Hospital. |
| APTT | APTT test is time sensitive and if collected at the practice should be taken as close to the courier collection time as possible. |
| Coagulation testing | There is an absolute requirement for relevant clinical details to be provided. |
| PET screen | This screen will now include an INR and APTT. |
| Multiple haematology tests | If a CBC and other tests requiring an EDTA tube (except HbA1c) are requested a separate purple top tube (EDTA) must be taken. |
| Thalassaemia reporting | From 1 November 2015 Hb A will no longer be a reported result with a Thalassaemia screen. |
| Haemachromotosis Gene testing (HFE) | S65 will no longer be reported with this test. |
| Thrombophilia testing | Due to the complexities and controversies surrounding testing for Heritable Thrombophilia all requests for a Thrombophilia screen will continue to require relevant clinical details which can be found in the Pathology Test Guide on our website www.wellingtonscl.co.nz Patients must not take any anticoagulant medication for 6 weeks prior to testing. NB: there is no role for Heritable Thrombophilia testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an acute event • Prior to the use of the combined oral contraceptive pill • For arterial thrombotic events. <p>If there are justifications outside the personal or family history the requestor should discuss this with the haematologist prior to requesting the tests.</p> |

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| IMMUNOLOGY | TEST INFORMATION CHANGE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allergy testing | Skin prick allergy testing will be available from 1 November 2015 at Hutt Valley and Masterton Hospital sites and from the collection rooms at Lower Hutt and Courtenay Place. An inhalant and food panel will be available at the hospital sites but an inhalant panel only at the community collection rooms. You may notice some small differences in the actual allergens tested as we standardise the panels. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antenatal testing | Antenatal results will no longer be reported as a profile. The blood group and RBC antibodies will be tested at Hutt Blood Bank and will require a pink top tube to be collected. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | TEST INFORMATION CHANGES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clinical details | The importance of clinical details, particularly in Microbiology and Haematology, cannot be over-emphasised. Without clinical details we are unable to interpret results or on occasion perform the correct tests. Currently referrals from the hospital that do not have relevant clinical details are not processed. While this is not yet mandatory in the community we would like to move in this direction. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ADD-ON TEST REQUESTS | Add-on test requests will not be able to be accepted for the week of 2 November as stored samples from the previous week will not be accessible. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abnormal results | Abnormal results will receive a red flag rather than the 1-3 stars as currently occurs. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Restricted tests | <p>A reminder that the following tests will only be funded when requested by a specialist or with the approval of a specialist or Pathologist. For all other referrals the patient will be charged.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>JAK2</td> <td>IGF1</td> <td>Hs-CRP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BCR-abl</td> <td>6 Thioguanine</td> <td>Red cell magnesium</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Faecal Calprotectin</td> <td>nucleotides/6MMP</td> <td>HGH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TPMT</td> <td>Plasma Zinc</td> <td>Quantiferon Gold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serum Free Light Chains</td> <td>Insulin/Glucose</td> <td>IGF BP-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Hs CRP</td> <td>HGH</td> </tr> </table> | JAK2 | IGF1 | Hs-CRP | BCR-abl | 6 Thioguanine | Red cell magnesium | Faecal Calprotectin | nucleotides/6MMP | HGH | TPMT | Plasma Zinc | Quantiferon Gold | Serum Free Light Chains | Insulin/Glucose | IGF BP-3 | | Hs CRP | HGH |
| JAK2 | IGF1 | Hs-CRP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BCR-abl | 6 Thioguanine | Red cell magnesium | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Faecal Calprotectin | nucleotides/6MMP | HGH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TPMT | Plasma Zinc | Quantiferon Gold | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Serum Free Light Chains | Insulin/Glucose | IGF BP-3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Hs CRP | HGH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Collection tubes | For the ease of handling for the new biochemistry analyser 10ml SST tubes will replace the 7.5ml SST tubes currently used. The 7.5ml will still be accepted but will be replaced with 10ml tubes when you order in the future. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| House calls | Housecalls will continue to be an important part of our service - please refer to our website for the guidelines when requesting a home visit www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/house-calls | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ineligible Patients | Ineligible Patients - "NO PAYMENT NO TEST" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>It has long been SCL's policy to collect payment from Ineligible Patients upfront before the specimen is taken. From 1 November 2015 Wellington SCL will not process samples if the patient has not paid and will not invoice patients retrospectively, after the specimen has been taken.</p> <p>From 1 November 2015 please note the following options in relation to collection of samples and payment for Ineligible Patients.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect payment at the time of specimen collection, bank the money collected and Wellington SCL will invoice your practice monthly for payments collected. 2. If you do not wish to collect payment from the Ineligible Patient please send the patient to one of our collection rooms where we will collect the sample and payment. <p>The Wellington SCL test price and eligibility list is available on the website. If you have any queries or if you would like a copy of this sent to you please email Fiona.james@wellingtonscl.co.nz</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |