



WELLINGTON SCL

# WELLINGTON SCL LABORATORY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGES TO YOUR LABORATORY SERVICE**

This information can also be found on the website [www.wellingtonscl.co.nz](http://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz)

On 1 November 2015 laboratory services in the Wairarapa DHB area became the responsibility of Wellington SCL. At that time we elected to continue to subcontract some of the services to MedLab Central. On 1 February we take those subcontracted services back in-house; this includes the laboratory computer system. We are also changing the location of where some specialist tests are sent (now that our Wellington regional laboratory is up and running) and taking responsibility for the Warfarin dosing service. The main differences you will see are outlined below:

### **1. Electronic orders (Eclair orders)**

**UNTIL 1 FEBRUARY PLEASE ENSURE ALL YOUR PATIENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH A PAPER COPY OF THE MEDLAB CENTRAL ECLAIR REQUEST FORM AS THESE ELECTRONIC REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCESSIBLE TO WELLINGTON SCL STAFF AFTER 1 FEBRUARY.**

From 1 February the e-ordering of laboratory tests is via the Wellington SCL Eclair orders system. Please use the

Wellington SCL e-order icon (pictured) on your Medtech 32 tool bar to launch Eclair orders.



The Wellington SCL Eclair order form is similar to old MedLab Central Eclair order form and works in the same way.

If you are experiencing difficulties placing Wellington SCL e-orders the Medtech lab order form can be used short term.

The e-ordering help desk support phone number is (04) 381 5979 or [contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz](mailto:contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz)

**AFTER 1 FEBRUARY PLEASE DO NOT USE THE MEDLAB CENTRAL ECLAIR ORDER FORM BECAUSE THESE FORMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY TO WELLINGTON SCL STAFF.**

### **2. Eclair CDR (regional results repository)**

The regional results repository changes over to Wellington SCL's system on 1 February. The results repository contains all the Wairarapa, Hutt & Wellington hospital and community patient results since 1 August 2015. Access to the new greater Wellington regional results repository is via the MedTech Wellington SCL Eclair e-order icon on your tool bar.

Access to the MedLab Central test results repository will remain available via the MedLab Central e-ordering icon in your Medtech tool bar. Referrers will need to choose to look at results rather than place an electronic order.

### **3. Cumulative results display in Medtech 32**

An unavoidable consequence of changing the pathology provider's laboratory computer system is a change to how cumulative reporting works. In order to create a cumulative graph you will need to use the Medtech screening terms function.

### **4. Screening Terms display in Medtech 32**

Please find attached the Medtech 32 screening tool installation instructions which will allow you to map screening terms prior to 1 February to results after 1 February. These instructions will also be distributed to practices by Medtech.

### **5. Warfarin dosing**

From 29 January, Wellington SCL will take over the Warfarin dosing of Wairarapa patients who are currently managed by MedLab Central. These patient's details, including history and recent results and have been transferred to WSCL INR Online so there is no requirement for referrers to register existing patients or provide a new request form.

Patients will be provided with an information sheet containing new contact information details when they present for their next INR test. Patient contact information has been loaded to ensure patients currently receiving dosage and next test date information via text message will continue to do so.

Patients can find information on the new Warfarin dosing service on the Wellington SCL website at the following link <http://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/warfarin-dosing-service-wairarapa-patients-only>

From 1 Feb 2016, for all enquiries regarding the Wellington SCL Warfarin management, please call 0800 420012.

### **6. Clinical Support & Pathologist Advice**

From 1 February clinical support and Pathologist advice will be provided solely by the 30 Wellington SCL pathologists based in Wellington & Hutt Hospitals. If you would like to contact an individual pathologist, details are available at <http://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/our-people>.

Regular clinical meetings and FNA appointments will be held at Wairarapa Hospital. In addition there will be a fortnightly anatomical pathologist presence at the hospital.

### **7. Report format changes**

From 1 February you may notice changes to the format and grouping of some test results as a consequence of changing pathology provider's laboratory computer system.

In addition the format of the results may vary depending on whether the tests were originally ordered by a hospital or community referrer (as the formats for these two groups may differ for some tests).

### **8. Specialised 'sendaway' laboratory testing now sent to Wellington Regional Lab**

From 1 February any tests not performed at the Masterton laboratory will be tested at the Wellington Regional Laboratory rather than Medlab Central's Palmerston North laboratory. There will be two shipments of specimens per day to Wellington on weekdays, and one shipment on a Saturday. A separate arrangement has been made for immediate transport of critical specimens / tests to Wellington.

### **9. Serial/repeat patients**

All serial/repeat patients have been migrated into the new laboratory computer system for 1 February, so when these patients present for testing the tests are known and preloaded into the Wellington SCL computer system. For further information please contact ph. (04) 381 5998.

## Test and reporting changes from 1 February.

Below are a number of test and reporting changes which will take effect from 1 February:

BIOCHEMISTRY	TEST INFORMATION CHANGES
<b>Parathyroid hormone (PTH) test</b>	A reminder that the parathyroid hormone test (PTH) requires an EDTA (mauve top tube) sample of its own (ie. a dedicated tube just for this test). The PTH tube cannot be shared with other tests also requiring a mauve top.
<b>Thyroid Function Tests</b>	When thyroid function tests are requested the results you receive will be for a TSH and T4 – if you require a T3 test you will need to request this separately. All serial/repeat patients with thyroid function tests will have TSH and T4 tests performed unless these have been requested by an Endocrinologist.
<b>Urine albumin creatinine ratio</b>	The lower detection limit of urine albumin is 3 mg/L. For those sample with urine albumin below the detection limit, the albumin creatinine ratio cannot be calculated. A relevant comment will be provided in the report.
MICROBIOLOGY	TEST INFORMATION CHANGES
<b>Vaginal swabs - Trichomonas testing</b>	Vaginal swabs will be tested for Bacterial Vaginosis and Candida - Trichomonas testing will only be carried out when requested.
<b>Urine cell counts</b>	Urine cell counts will no longer be performed unless specifically requested.
<b>Semen analysis</b>	'Normal forms' morphology analysis will not longer be reported as part of the semen fertility laboratory reports.
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	TEST INFORMATION CHANGES
<b>Chlamydia swabs</b>	Due to the testing equipment change for Chlamydia and Neisseria gonorrhoea from 1 February, new test kits will be required. If you have not received new kits by the last week in January please order from the stores department <a href="mailto:stores@apath.co.nz">stores@apath.co.nz</a> . <b>NB:</b> The Cobas swabs you are currently using will be <b>unable to be processed</b> after 1 February. 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.
<b>Testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea</b>	The best method for testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea is by molecular tests.  At Wellington SCL, we use a highly sensitive and specific molecular test that can detect both <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> in the same sample.  The best test in women is the Vulvovaginal sample using pink Aptima swab (clinician or patient collected).  The preferred test in men is a first void urine (yellow Aptima urine kit) (patient collected).  In any patient with risk factors or symptoms of rectal or pharyngeal chlamydia or gonorrhoea, a pink Aptima swab can be sent for molecular testing.  Please click <a href="http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/sites/default/files/Clinical-Update-Dec-15-Chlamydia-Gonorrhoea-test-guide.pdf">here</a> ( <a href="http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/sites/default/files/Clinical-Update-Dec-15-Chlamydia-Gonorrhoea-test-guide.pdf">http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/sites/default/files/Clinical-Update-Dec-15-Chlamydia-Gonorrhoea-test-guide.pdf</a> ) for an excellent information sheet detailing the optimal sampling techniques & requirements for testing Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea.
<b>Report format changes to Chlamydia and</b>	The format of Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea reports will change on 1 February. The main differences are listed below:

<b>Gonorrhoea reports</b>	<p>1) Specimen type. A field on the report will display the type of specimen received, e.g, urine, vaginal, cervical, rectal, throat. Each specimen type will have a separate test report issued.</p> <p>2) Results. A positive result will now be displayed on the report as "Detected". A negative result will still be displayed as "Not Detected". Positive results will display in red in Medtech.</p> <p>3) A generic comment will display on all reports detailing the test method used in the laboratory, ie. "Chlamydia trachomatis &amp; Neisseria gonorrhoeae testing was performed using the APTIMA Combo 2 Assay on the PANTHER System (GEN-PROBE)".</p>
<b>Herpes Simplex PCR (HSV)</b>	When requesting HSV a result for Herpes Zoster will be included.
<b>CYTOLOGY</b>	<b>TEST INFORMATION CHANGES</b>
<b>Cervical smears</b>	<p>From 1 February the analyser for testing in Cytology will change from ThinPrep to the BD SurePath system.</p> <p>Cervical smears &amp; FNAs performed from 1 February must be collected in the new Surepath pots. Arrangements have been made to ensure you have a supply of these new pots. Please ensure this information is communicated to staff performing cervical smears. The "old" Thinprep pots may be discarded or returned to the lab. Please contact Fiona James, Customer Liaison Manager with any questions <a href="mailto:contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz">contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz</a> or (04) 381 5979.</p>
<b>Cytology urines samples</b>	Please ensure there are no undue delays with urine cytology samples being sent in to the lab. If a delay is anticipated please refrigerate the sample until the next courier delivery.
<b>HAEMATOLOGY</b>	<b>TEST INFORMATION CHANGES</b>
<b>INR reporting</b>	A PT which is routinely done at the same time as the INR will now be included in the result you receive.
<b>Platelet Function Assay (PFA)</b>	Due to the time requirements for PFA testing patients must be advised to attend the collection facilities at Masterton Hospital.
<b>APTT</b>	APTT test is time sensitive and if collected at the practice should be taken as close to the courier collection time as possible.
<b>Coagulation testing</b>	There is an absolute requirement for relevant clinical details to be provided. This particularly applied to indicating which anti-coagulant the patient is taking.
<b>PET screen</b>	This screen will now include an INR and APTT.
<b>Multiple haematology tests</b>	If a CBC and other tests requiring an EDTA tube are requested a separate purple top tube (EDTA) must be taken.
<b>Thrombophilia testing</b>	<p>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 <a href="http://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz">www.wellingtonscl.co.nz</a> Patients must not take any anticoagulant medication for 6 weeks prior to testing. NB: there is no role for Heritable Thrombophilia testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In an acute event</li> <li>• Prior to the use of the combined oral contraceptive pill</li> <li>• For arterial thrombotic events.</li> </ul> <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>
<b>IMMUNOLOGY</b>	<b>TEST INFORMATION CHANGES</b>

<b>Allergy testing</b>	Skin prick allergy testing (inhalant and food panel) is available at Masterton Hospital site. You may notice some small differences in the actual allergens tested as we standardise the panels throughout the region.
<b>Antenatal testing</b>	Antenatal results will no longer be reported as a profile, instead each constituent test will be reported individually.
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>TEST INFORMATION CHANGES</b>
<b>Clinical details</b>	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.
<b>ADD-ON TEST REQUESTS</b>	<b>Add-on test requests will not be able to be accepted for the week of 1 February as stored samples from the previous week will not be accessible. A new blood test request will be required.</b>
<b>Abnormal results display in Medtech</b>	Abnormal numeric results will be displayed in MedTech 32 as HH, H, L, LL (indicating degrees of high & low abnormality where relevant).
<b>House calls</b>	Housecalls will continue to be an important part of our service - please refer to our website for the guidelines when requesting a home visit <a href="http://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/house-calls">www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/house-calls</a>

### **Contact information**

A list of our key contact details are given below. Visit [Wellington SCL's website](http://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz) for complete contact lists:

- customer services : [contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz](mailto:contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz) or (04) 381 5979
- special test appointments, home visit requests (06) 946 9836.
- Serial/repeat patients information (04) 381 5998.
- warfarin dosing service 0800 420012.
- pathologist advice phone: (04) 381 5900 or email [pathologist@wellingtonscl.co.nz](mailto:pathologist@wellingtonscl.co.nz)
- for lab results phone: (06) 946 9836 or (04) 381 5900
- consumables' orders: use the online stores ordering form on the Wellington SCL website or email [stores@wellingtonscl.co.nz](mailto:stores@wellingtonscl.co.nz).

### **Practice visits**

GP practice visits & rest home visits are continuing this week, we hope these will provide transition information and answer any specific questions.

### **Need more information?**

You are welcome to contact:

- Wellington SCL's Customer Liaison Manager  
Fiona James: [contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz](mailto:contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz) or (04) 381 5979.