



NEWSLETTER & CLINICAL UPDATE

11 December 2015

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

We thought it would be useful for you to know how we are progressing with some of the concerns raised since Wellington SCL commenced, and provide further updates relevant to community referrers. In this newsletter we also cover :

- access to the clinical data repository
- Wellington SCL collection centres opening hours over Christmas/New Year period
- Hepatitis A and frozen berries
- PSA testing changes
- Chlamydia & Gonorrhoea testing recommendations

Histology reports

An issue has recently been identified with the reporting of histology results. It was discovered that although histology test results were completed, they had not necessarily been reported to some community requesting doctors.

The cause of this issue has been identified and fixed, and all unreported histology reports were reported out. Please let us know if there are any histology results you have not yet received.

'Copy to' doctors

We are pleased to advise that the name of 'Copy to' doctors now appear on all lab reports. Thank you all for your patience while this issue was resolved.

Identifying urgent requests for faxing / phoning

WSCL is working with our IT vendor to improve the way urgent test requests are identified within the laboratory. The aim is to ensure urgent requests for testing can be faxed or phoned to you in a timely manner. In the meantime if you do require an urgent test result please check your electronic result inbox or contact the laboratory.

Notifications of Negative Haemolysis and dispatch of Cervical Smears in your Medtech In Box

We have received feedback from community referrers regarding the necessity of reporting negative haemolysis and notifications of Cervical Smear dispatch to other laboratories. The intention is to no longer report these notifications to referrers. We hope to have this in place before Christmas.

Clinical Data Repository Access

Wellington SCL operates a secure on-line access system to our patient test result database for referrers. This database holds all the laboratory test results from hospital and community referrers since 1 November 2015. Wellington SCL is running an information campaign about its Clinical Data Repository (CDR) to community referrers. If you are interested in accessing the database to look up lab results please email contact@wellingtonscl.co.nz . You will be required to complete an IT security access agreement form. Once we have received your completed form we will be in touch to set up your account. Access is either via Medtech or web-based (for non-Medtech users).

Collection Room opening hours over Christmas/New Year

The opening hours of our collection centres over the Christmas break can be found on our website at www.wellingtonscl.co.nz . A link to these hours can be found [here](http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/christmas-new-year-hours-collection-centres) (<http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/christmas-new-year-hours-collection-centres>)

Reminder Courtenay Place Collection Centre is moving

A reminder that on 12 December our Courtenay Place collection centre moves to Level 2, 97 Courtenay Place (Symes De Silva House).

Hepatitis A and frozen berries

We have seen a massive increase in hepatitis A serology requests as a result of the recent publicity around frozen berries. Hepatitis A serology should not be requested on the worried well who have eaten berries, or on those with nonspecific symptoms, because only a tiny percentage of people who ate berries will be affected and the results will be uninterpretable.

The worried well may be charged for non-clinically indicated testing if they are asking if they are immune to Hepatitis A.

Anyone who develops RUQ discomfort or jaundice after eating berries should be notified to Regional Public Health. Liver transaminases should be requested, and if abnormal it would be appropriate to request serology and faecal PCR testing for hepatitis A.

PSA testing

Wellington SCL no longer adds on Free PSA to specimens when total PSA is between 4-10ug/L [reflex testing]. Although this was done previously by Aotea Pathology, that was a local arrangement and the practice is not standard in other laboratories in New Zealand.

A new guideline released by the Ministry of Health makes reporting of free PSA redundant, at least in primary care. Please click [here](http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/clinical-updates) for a full explanation of these changes (<http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/clinical-updates>).

Testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea

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 *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* 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 = 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 [here](http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/clinical-updates) (<http://wellingtonscl.co.nz/clinical-updates>) for an excellent information sheet detailing the optimal sampling techniques & requirements for testing Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea.