July 2022 – Newsletter

Contents

PLEASE READ: IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Demand Management for blood collection devices

Zero Tolerance- Essential Criteria for Request Forms

As we responded to the Covid-19 pandemic, we relaxed our zero tolerance, however, we've been impressed with the high level of accurately completed forms we continued to receive during such a difficult time when many of you were working in new roles and teams. Thank you – like many of you, laboratory teams have been under pressure and accurately completed documentation really helps our turnaround times – and ultimately supports delivery of great patient care.

Here's a reminder of the few mandatory sections - all of this information should be at the fingertips of the requestor:

- Patient's Full Name
- Date of birth
- Hospital Number or NHS number or other agreed unique identifier.
- Investigations required
- Date and time of sample
- Patient's location
- Clinician

Accreditation

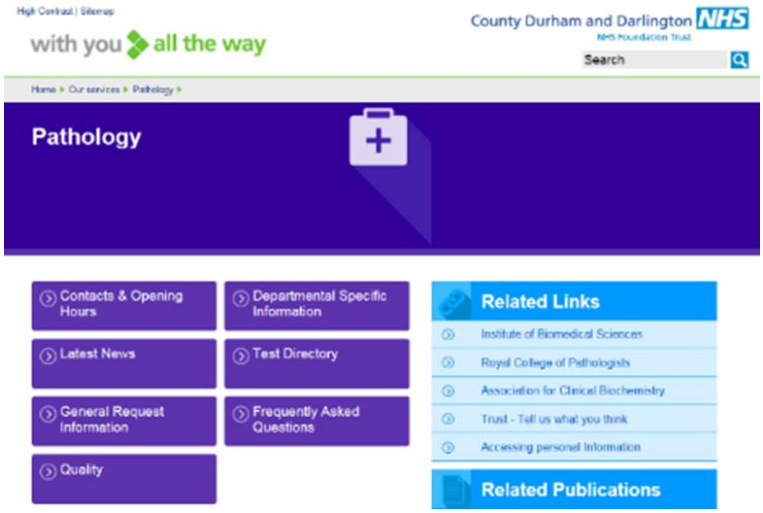
CDDFT Pathology Laboratories are mainly accredited to ISO 15189:2012, however due to the nature of the way in which UKAS grants accreditation, it is the test that is accredited and not the laboratory.

UKAS maintains a register of laboratories that are accredited to ISO 15189:2012, which can be accessed via the UKAS website (https://www.ukas.com/search-accredited-organisations/). The UKAS website holds a schedule of accreditation for the laboratory that lists the individual tests for which the laboratory are currently accredited for. Other tests may be awaiting completion of Extension to Scope (i.e. new test that is in the process of being added to the schedule of accreditation) and / or transitioning from CPA accreditation to UKAS. Therefore pathology reports may contain a combination of accredited and unaccredited tests.

Please be assured that it is normal practice for laboratories to be accredited for a number of tests; however there could be a number of tests that are unaccredited. This does not necessarily indicate that these tests are of inferior quality, the tests have the same level of internal and external quality assurance associated with them, and they are just yet to be officially accredited by UKAS.
Users of the CDDFT pathology service may wish to be certain that all tests they are sending for analysis are accredited by UKAS. This information can be obtained using the link above to the UKAS website. After viewing the UKAS Schedule of Accreditation, if you would like to discuss the accreditation status of any of our tests please contact the Pathology Quality Manager initially to discuss, and if further assurance or information is required (i.e. how we assure quality results for the test) this information can be provided upon request from the departmental lead.

Pathology Handbook

The Pathology Handbook is a great tool for all users to access information regarding all services available through pathology. The handbook page can be accessed through the trust internet site and also the link below. We would welcome any feedback regarding this function of our service, to help improve the quality if of the service given to users. All enquiries should be forwarded to the Pathology Quality Manager Rebecca.sedman@nhs.net



Please Click Here to Access the Pathology Handbook

Transport of Samples

The pathology department would like to remind all service users of the requirements for transport of samples.

Acute Trust users
Wards and departments using the pneumatic tube transport:

Please do not send risk of TB, blood culture or precious unrepeatable samples such as CSF, tissue, joint fluid, ascitic fluid, pleural fluids via the POD under any circumstances.

High Risk Samples – Acute Users
There have been a number of recent incidents where requests for phlebotomy to take bloods from 'high risk' patients have been insufficiently labelled. This is a Trust requirement to ensure everyone dealing with the samples can take the required precautions.

Medical staff requesting blood samples must ensure relevant information is available and that requests are marked as high risk or labelled with a high risk sticker.
Samples do not require to be double bagged.

GP/ External Users

UN3373 regulations for the transport of biological substances are set through the P650 packaging instructions which state:

The packaging shall consist of at least three components:

- (a) A primary receptacle (sample container)
- (b) A secondary packaging (sample bag)
- (c) An outer packaging (transport carrier)

Either the secondary or the outer packaging must be rigid. All samples should be transported in carrier boxes which all pathology drivers are supplied with.

Samples travelling by taxi should be sent using an outer container that is rigid and concealed so that no patient identifiable information can be seen to ensure confidentiality and information governance.

Andrology service (Post Vasectomy Semen analysis (PVSA) testing)

Due to issues relating to Covid-19, we are currently unable to provide an andrology service for GP patients or any Trust services other than Gynaecology, and these are strictly by appointment only.

This is largely due to the health and safety guidelines for the andrology processes themselves. We're working to ensure that we can safely reintroduce the service as soon as possible and will update you further in the next few weeks with details of how we plan to reintroduce the service safely, and referral criteria.

If further advice or information is required, please contact Mrs Jennifer Siddall, Cellular Pathology Department Manager 01913332447.

Labelling Samples

'We are experiencing problems with FBC samples becoming trapped and causing damage to our analysers. The problem has been identified as the 2D-barcoded patient demographic labels which are too large for the FBC bottle.
Where these labels are used on EDTA bottles the following process will be followed:

- **Label must be placed so that the patient demographics are near the bottle lid**.
- Laboratory staff will tear off the 2D barcode part of the label that is too long for the bottle, after confirming the sample is viable for testing, as this is not required by pathology. Please do not tear any labels prior to them arriving in the laboratory as this will affect our ability to accept and validate the sample for processing.
- **With immediate notice, if samples are received with labels facing the other direction, they will not be processed due to the potential for damage to our equipment**. The labels cannot be torn in this situation as this would remove all of the patient demographics.

Your co-operation with this is appreciated in the interests of service continuity and patient safety.

If you require any further information please contact our laboratories:
Haematology UHND 32442
Haematology DMH 43252

General Enquiries

Working with Us

We are always keen to hear from our user's especially on aspects of our service that either you appreciate or where you feel we could do better. With this in mind we would like to arrange Innovation and Service User Feedback sessions. If this is something you would be interested in taking part in please contact: cddft.pathologyquality@nhs.net

Pathology Quality Manager
Rebecca Sedman
Tel: 0191 332116
Email: Rebecca.sedman@nhs.net

We Welcome Your Feedback, if you would like to complete our survey please click **here**