

Add-on requests – Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology

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Relevant Staff Groups to which document applies	All staff within Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology
Copy No	1
Location of Copies	1. Q-Pulse 2. Biochemistry laboratories DMH and UHND 3. Pathology Handbook – Trust Intranet 4.

Relevant safety data, COSHH and risk assessments: -

Mark relevant procedures/policies

VDU	Lifting/Handling	COSHH	Spillage	Disposal	Sharps
*					

The above risk/safety assessments must be read and understood before carrying out this procedure. Details are recorded in the main text of the document.

Additional Standard cross references:-

Standard

Add-on requests – Clinical Biochemistry

Add-on requests are defined as additional testing that is being requested by the user after the sample has been sent to the laboratory. This may occur following review of test results or because the test was not requested initially.

Any request for additional testing from any user within the Acute Trust should be made in writing on a separate request card. GP's may request additional testing over the telephone due to the time taken for request cards to arrive from surgeries.

For tests offered in-house please refer to the table below for guidance as to what tests can be added on.

For any requests to add on tests referred to other Trusts please direct the call to the duty Clinical Scientist.

Add-on requests – Immunology Section

Immunology samples are stored frozen for 4 weeks, and all tests can be added on if the sample is still available. Telephone and email requests are accepted. For telephone requests, establish the identity of the requestor and where they are calling from. Open the patient's record on Winpath and double check the patients details with the caller i.e. name, DOB and hospital/NHS number. Add the test that is requested and make a note in audit trail when prompted that the test was requested by GP/Dr as well as writing it on the telephone call log.

Add-on request urgency

Biochemistry add-on requests from A&E, ITU, paediatrics should be treated as urgent and the turnaround time should be 1 hour from laboratory receipt. Other add-on request should be dealt with as soon as possible.

Reflective testing

Reflective testing is part of the Clinical Scientist role. The Clinical Scientist reviews abnormal test results and clinical details. Based upon this information they may add on relevant tests to facilitate patient care and reduce the necessity for further samples to be taken.

The following protocol is in use whereby the Clinical Scientists add on Immunoglobulins to the Clinical Biochemistry sample where the calculated globulin is >45 in the following patient groups:

Over 40 years old

No abnormal liver function or history of abnormal liver pathology that would elevate globulins

No current significantly raised CRP or ESR

No previous Immunoglobulin request within the past 6 months

No known myeloma

Those with a raised calcium, alkaline phosphatase, low albumin and/or haemoglobin

Clinical details and biochemical findings (as detailed above) suggestive of myeloma

The following table states the maximum time from collection that a test can be added to the original request:

Up to 4 hours from sample collection	Up to 8 hours from sample collection	Up to 24 hours from sample collection	Up to 48 hours from sample collection
CBIL	Troponin I	Albumin*	AFP
		Alkaline phosphatase	Ferritin
		Alanine Transaminase	Folate
		ALT	FSH
		Amylase	FT3
		AST	FT4
		Bile acids	Gentamicin
		Calcium	Immunoglobulins
		Chloride	LH
		Cholesterol	NTproBNP (GP/Cardiology)
		CK	Oestradiol
		Cortisol	P3NP
		Creatinine	PLGF ratio
		CRP	Procalcitonin
		C125	Progesterone
		C153	Prolactin
		C199	PSA
		CEA	Rheumatoid Factor, RF
		Digoxin	Testosterone
		Ethanol	Thyroid peroxidase autoantibodies
		GGT	TSH
		Glucose	Vitamin B12
		HDL-cholesterol	Vitamin D
		hCG	Carbamazepine**
		Iron	Theophylline**
		LDH	Phenytoin**
		Lithium	Valproate**
		Magnesium	
		Osmolality	
		Paracetamol	
		Phosphate	
		Salicylate	
		Sodium	
		Total Bilirubin	
		Total Protein*	
		Transferrin	
		Triglyceride	
		Urate	

*Immunology section may request add-on for total protein and albumin beyond this time period (up to 1 week after collection) to Immunology samples only, as this is required for protein electrophoresis.

**Contact Duty Biochemist/Biochemist on-call before accepting add-on request, as there is a requirement to check sample timing with respect to previous dose.

The following analytes cannot be added to an original request due to stability issues:

Ammonia

Total CO2

Lactate