



## Welcome

## Clyde Sector

This is the first edition of the Laboratory Medicine newsletter aimed at Primary Care laboratory users. Its purpose is to bring you information on the laboratory service. This initial letter will primarily concern Biochemistry and Haematology updates. We would be delighted with your feedback on issues that you would like us to address in the newsletter. We hope you find it useful. Comments or suggestions for future articles can be sent to:

Neil Mcconnell ([kmccconnell@nhs.net](mailto:kmccconnell@nhs.net)) or Martin Wight ([martinwight@nhs.net](mailto:martinwight@nhs.net))

There has been recent significant re-organisation across the laboratory disciplines in GG&C. We are continually looking at ways we can improve communication regarding these changes and also highlight issues with particular relevance to Primary Care. In this first issue we have picked a couple of topics that we thought would be useful to highlight.

## Procedure for sending an urgent sample

- The laboratory must be phoned on 0141 314 6157 to notify an urgent sample is on it's way, to ensure it is handled appropriately (NB. Dunoon & Rothesay GPs should contact 01475 504213 for Biochemistry or 01475 504324 for Haematology urgent samples).
- Samples should be packaged in a separate pink transport bag/envelope from the routine samples. This should be marked as urgent.
- If there is no immediate routine sample collection due, the sample should be sent by taxi to your local lab.

## Telephoning of abnormal results

Telephone phone limits have been agreed between Biochemistry/Haematology and the GG&C out-of-hours service (GEMS). All laboratories within GG&C are now using the same phone limits. These are in line with the Royal College of Pathologist's guidance on communication of abnormal results and reflect situations where clinical intervention may be warranted urgently.

The limits are summarised below:

### Biochemistry

Parameter	Low Trigger	High Trigger	Comment
Glucose	<2.5 mmol/L	>30 mmol/L	
Sodium	<120 mmol/L	>155 mmol/L	
Potassium	<2.5 mmol/L	>6.5 mmol/L	
Urea		>30 mmol/L	New finding
Creatinine		>400 $\mu$ mol/L	New finding
AST/ALT		>1000 IU/L	
Amylase		>500 IU/L	New finding
Calcium (adjusted)	<1.8 mmol/L	>3.5 mmol/L	
Phosphate	<0.3 mmol/L		New finding
Magnesium	<0.4 mmol/L		New finding
CK		>5000 IU/L	



## Haematology

Parameter	Low trigger	High trigger	Comments
Haemoglobin	<70 g/L  <50 g/L if MCV <70fL		Unless most recent result similar or unless MCV <70fL thereby making IDA most unlikely
White cell count		>50 (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	Unless most recent result similar and taken in last month
Neutrophil count	<0.75 (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)		Unless most recent result similar and taken within last month or Beatson Oncology Centre patient
Platelet count	<30 (x10 <sup>9</sup> /L)		Unless most recent result similar and taken in last month
INR		>6.0	

## Printed Reports

The departments are aware that there has been changes to the printed report format for Clyde GPs with laboratory harmonisation across GG&C. Following consultation, we have implemented new printed report formats in July with some improvements. These include:

- 1) Increasing the font size whilst still enabling at least 3 cumulative results
- 2) Decreasing the number of reports issued for routine requests

## Laboratory Contact Numbers

Contact numbers for results, urgent samples or general enquiries e.g. information of specimen type:

### Biochemistry/Haematology

Inverclyde Royal Hospital  
Royal Alexandra Hospital  
Vale of Leven Hospital

} 0141 314 6157

Microbiology  
Immunology

0141 314 6642/6169  
0141 347 8872/0141 354 9337

## NHS Clyde Sector Laboratory Handbook

Clyde Laboratory and GP Handbooks are available on the GG&C Staffnet page. Designed to provide information on available tests, tube types, clinical advice on routine investigations and departmental contact details:

[http://www.staffnet.ggc.scot.nhs.uk/Acute/Diagnostics/All%20Laboratory%20Medicine/Clyde%20Laboratory%20Medicine/Pages/LM\\_LaboratoryManuals\\_AL\\_180308.aspx](http://www.staffnet.ggc.scot.nhs.uk/Acute/Diagnostics/All%20Laboratory%20Medicine/Clyde%20Laboratory%20Medicine/Pages/LM_LaboratoryManuals_AL_180308.aspx)

Alternatively they can be accessed through the pathway:

**Staffnet > Acute > Diagnostics > All Laboratory Medicine > Clyde Laboratory Medicine**

Note not currently available to NHS Highland practices.