



Immunology Laboratory Update

Clyde Sector

Immunology have a new webpage on the GGC site with copies of our handbook, list of available allergens and request form, which we hope you will find useful.

<http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/professional-support-sites/immunology/>

New items in the handbook include details of the request intervention system used to reduce unnecessary repeat tests eg Rheumatoid factor within 60 days, Coeliac serology 5 months and ANA 30 days. All rejected requests are checked manually so if repeat testing is needed, please do provide a reason on the request form or phone the lab on 0141 347 8872 so we can re-instate the test. Samples are generally kept for 2–3 weeks. Unfortunately it is no longer feasible to add immunology tests to samples sent to other disciplines.

Androgen Profile for Female Testosterone Measurement

As reported in Issue 7, female testosterone measurement has been replaced by a more comprehensive androgen profile. To assist with requesting, the androgen profile is available in two of the Endocrine Investigations profiles in ICE:

PCOS? HIRSUTISM?	contains FSH, LH, and Androgens
OLIGOMENORRHOEA	contains FSH, LH, Prolactin and Androgens

Elevated androstenedione, occasionally with a normal testosterone, supports a diagnosis of PCOS. Pathologies presenting with similar clinical features eg late onset congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) should be excluded before a diagnosis of PCOS is made. Simultaneous analysis of 17-hydroxyprogesterone allows for the exclusion of this (*J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 2013;98:4565).

If either of these are selected, you will be asked to provide information on LMP, hirsutism and OCP at the time of request.

Demand Optimisation of Primary Care Urine Requests

Demand optimisation of microbiology urine requesting from primary care using the GPICE electronic order system was introduced at the end of August 2016. Early audits show a reduction of 7% in samples sent from primary care using the GPICE system. This would result in 8,500 fewer requests per year.

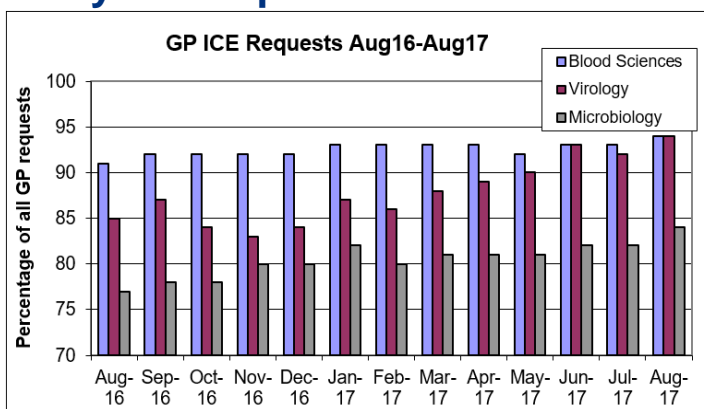
The demand optimisation system has also allowed the laboratory to routinely release more information, such as antimicrobial susceptibility results in catheter specimens, as the samples are known to be taken within the correct guidelines for automatically releasing these results.

ICE Electronic Communication System Update

The uptake of the GPICE system in primary care users has also been audited. It was found that the usage of the GP electronic ordering system for Microbiology has remained constant at around 80% since the system was introduced.

We are looking at the data to identify interventions to increase this figure and will work with primary care to improve uptake.

Electronic ordering of primary care requests assists the laboratory to improve turnaround times as requests are entered into the lab systems in a fraction of the time of paper requests. It also assures data quality and clinical governance by electronically identifying the patient the sample belongs to from the primary care system.



We would be delighted with your feedback on issues that you would like us to address in the newsletter.

Comments or suggestions can be sent to:

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