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MEMORANDUM

To: Rheumatologists, Haematologists, Dermatologists, Renal Physicians undertaking clinics in Vale of Leven
From: Dr Iain Jones, Consultant Clinical Biochemist
Date: 20/11/18

RE: Cryoglobulin sampling at Vale of Leven

Unfortunately cryoglobulin sampling is no longer possible for patients located at Vale of Leven Hospital.

Cryoglobulin sampling requires the sample to be taken into specimen tubes maintained at 37 degrees or higher, and for these samples to be kept at 37 degrees until being separated in a heated centrifuge after at least an hour allowed for the sample to fully clot.

The Vale of Leven laboratory does not have suitable facilities on site to ensure samples are maintained at an appropriate temperature, and attempts to send warmed tubes from RAH to VoL and have the samples returned to RAH for separation have been unsatisfactory.

Patients needing cryoglobulin sampling will need to be seen at a suitable clinic at RAH, with the laboratory informed of the attendance in advance by email on Clyde.BiochemistryPOCT@ggc.scot.nhs.uk to ensure the facilities for sample collection are ready for the day of clinic attendance.

Iain Jones
Clinical Lead Biochemistry (Clyde)