

CLYDE BIOCHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Clinicians across Dermatology in NHSGGC
From: Dr Iain Jones, Consultant Clinical Biochemist
Date: 03/10/19

RE: New P3NP assay

Dear Colleague

The Biochemistry Department will shortly be introducing a new Siemens P3NP assay, with the assay being performed twice weekly in RAH Biochemistry. This should provide P3NP results in a much more timely manner.

Evaluation of the assay demonstrates that it produces results which are significantly higher than those produced by the Manchester Radioimmunoassay method we previously used. This is a method related difference also seen by other users of the Siemens assay. Because of this we are suggesting different action limits to those previously used. The Siemens Centaur method has been used in Dundee for some time, and to harmonise practices in Scotland we are provisionally adopting their recommended action limits, summarised below.

Old assay	New assay
Consider biopsy in adults on Methotrexate if pretreatment >8.0ug/L	Consider biopsy in adults on Methotrexate if pretreatment >13.0ug/L
or 3 samples >4.2ug/L	or 3 samples >7.0ug/L
or 2 samples >8.0ug/L consecutively.	or 2 samples >13.0ug/L consecutively.
Consider withdrawing methotrexate if 3 samples >10.0ug/L in 1 year	Consider withdrawing methotrexate if 3 samples >17.0ug/L in 1 year

These limits will be reviewed, and any changes we would want to consider discussed with our colleagues in Dundee, once the assay has been running for 6 months.

To assist with the transition we have prepared spreadsheets containing all P3NP results broken down by hospital since the start of 2018. Results above the action limits are colour coded as above. They are sorted by CHI number and the CHI of patients with results above the action limits is highlighted in bold. We hope this will be of assistance.

Trakcare will automatically route Trakcare requests to RAH for analysis, no additional actions are required when requesting P3NP analysis. There is no change to the sample tube which continues to be a standard gel tube.

During the workup all samples will be stored to allow further analysis. For patients < 18 years of age, for whom the cutoffs above are not valid, please contact the lab and the sample can be sent on to Manchester for analysis to allow “rebaselining”.

If there are any queries or concerns about results, please do not hesitate to contact me on:

iain.jones@nhs.net

Best wishes

Iain Jones
Clinical Lead Biochemistry (Clyde)