

MEMORANDUM

To: Primary Care, Greater Glasgow and Clyde
 From: Biochemistry Department, Glasgow Royal Infirmary
 Date: 3rd March 2020

RE: Changes to the urine catecholamine and 5-HIAA service

Dear colleague,

We are writing to you in advance of an upgrade to the urine catecholamine service in NHSGGC which will commence on **Monday 30 March 2020**. This upgrade involves replacing the urine catecholamines assay with a more sensitive and specific urine metadrenalines assay. As a result, the requesting of urine catecholamine and 5-HIAA assays will change.

As of 30 March 2020, there will be two different tests which can be requested from ICE:

- Urine metadrenalines (replacing urine catecholamines)
- Urine 5-HIAA

Urine metadrenalines are the recommended test for the diagnosis of catecholamine producing tumours including phaeochromocytoma or paraganglioma. Urine 5-HIAA can be used for the diagnosis of carcinoid tumours. The following summary table is provided for reference:

Test	What is the analyte?	Used to test for	Typical symptoms
Urine metadrenalines	Metabolites of adrenaline, noradrenaline and dopamine	Phaeochromocytoma Paraganglioma	Hypertension, sweating, tremor, palpitations, headaches
Urine 5-HIAA	Serotonin metabolite	Carcinoid	Flushing, diarrhoea, cramping, wheeze

The sample requirements for these two tests are different:

- Urine metadrenalines: 24h urine (plain)*
- Urine 5-HIAA: 24h urine (acidified)

*There is no need to avoid paracetamol before collecting a 24h urine for metadrenalines.

Analysis will be performed by Glasgow Royal Infirmary and further information is available on their website:

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/professional-support-sites/laboratory-medicine/laboratory-disciplines/biochemistry/nhsggc-specialist-endocrine-laboratory/tumour-markers/>