

CLYDE BIOCHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT



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MEMORANDUM

To: All Wards IRH, RAH, VOL. Portering staff. Phlebotomy staff.

From: Dr Iain Jones, Consultant Clinical Biochemist

Date: 01/08/19

RE: Biochemistry samples apparently being put in Microbiology bags

There have been numerous occasions over several months of samples for Clyde wards arriving in Biochemistry at GRI after a significant delay. This is leading to a delay in results being available or for unstable analytes it not being possible to produce a result.

Given that these ward Biochemistry samples are arriving in GRI where ward Microbiology samples are sent and that it did not happen prior to the Microbiology move it appears highly likely that these samples are being sent with the microbiology samples.

Wards should send all Biochemistry samples to their local lab via the pod systems where available or via the designated points for pickup by porter staff. Under **NO** circumstances should Biochemistry samples be placed in the blue Microbiology specimen bags – doing so will result in severe delays to patients' results, or it being impossible to produce a result.

Please ensure all staff who may handle samples in your clinical area are aware of the contents of this memo.

Iain Jones
Clinical Lead Biochemistry (Clyde)