

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: 09/04/20

RE: Biochemistry samples apparently being put in Microbiology or Virology bags

There have been numerous occasions recently of samples for Clyde wards arriving in Biochemistry at QEUH or 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.

Previous investigations strongly suggest the cause of this is Biochemistry samples being placed into blue Microbiology or teal Virology bags.

Wards should send all Biochemistry samples to the lab via the pod systems where available and appropriate or via the designated points for pickup by portering staff (or by taxi for Vale of Leven Out of Hours.) Under **NO** circumstances should any Biochemistry samples, particularly Biochemistry CSF samples, be placed in the blue Microbiology specimen bags or teal Virology 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)