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Core Clinical Services Directorate

25<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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Dear Colleague

**Re: Alkaline phosphatase results issued against incorrect reference ranges**

As part of the implementation of the new laboratory computer system (Winpath) on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, new reference ranges were introduced for alkaline phosphatase (ALP). These were designed to provide more appropriate ranges in children and to harmonise ranges with UHB and WGH.

Unfortunately during this process, the ALP reference ranges were set up incorrectly, resulting in incorrect reference ranges being reported in adult males, adult females (lower reference limit only) and in some age-related categories in children.

We have recorded this as a clinical incident and would welcome any further comments or feedback on the clinical impact this may have had. In order to reduce any further risk of results being misinterpreted, we have re-reported any ALP results where the incorrect reference range would have made a difference between a result being marked as normal or raised.

However, due to the very large number of ALP requests processed by the laboratory, it has not been possible for us to amend all incorrect reports. When reviewing historical results, please be aware that the reference range for ALP may be incorrect for results reported between 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The age-related reference ranges for ALP are shown below for reference.

For results in the following categories, amended reports have been issued:

1. Slightly increased ALP results in adult males reported between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October that were incorrectly reported as normal.
2. A small number of ALP results in 12 and 14 year-old girls and 16-18 year-old boys that were reported as increased but would have been normal for age. We have also written to individual GPs with details of any patients falling into this category.

Cont'd...

Please accept my apologies for this error and any harm or inconvenience this may have caused.

**Alkaline Phosphatase**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age range (inclusive)</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>
Both	Up to 13 days	90	273
Both	14 days – < 1 year	134	518
Both	1 – 9 years	156	369
Both	10 – 12 years	141	460
M	13 - 14 years	127	517
M	15 – 16 years	89	365
M	17 - 18 years	59	164
F	13 - 14 years	62	280
F	15 – 16 years	54	130
F	17 - 18 years	48	130
Both	19 years and over	30	130

Yours sincerely



Peter Beresford  
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