

Severn Pathology Newsletter

Issue 2: January 2017

Welcome to the Severn Pathology Newsletter

Laboratory information management system

Pathology across North Bristol, UH Bristol, Weston and PHE successfully went live with their new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) on Sunday the 2nd October 2016. The system chosen was the latest version of Winpath, a well proven LIMS from Clinisys UK who hold approximately 60% of the UK market. This has been a challenging project creating a single system across the four organisations and hasn't been without its issues but we now have a standardised system which has already helped in combining some pathology services across Bristol.

The move from one system to another has caused problems, especially around GP Links and ICE reporting. Where we can we are working to resolve these and have made good progress so far on the main issues identified, but accept there is more work to do.

Allergy and Autoimmune Antibody requests

If you are requesting tests for **Allergy and Autoimmune Antibody** investigations alongside routine chemistry investigations **two clotted (yellow top) samples** are required. Previously a single clotted sample was collected, however having reviewed this practice, a significant number of requests were being reported as insufficient for analysis and a repeat sample requested. To avoid additional phlebotomy appointments for patients please take two separate clotted samples.

Immunology Requests

Lithium Heparin (green) samples are not suitable for investigation into paraproteins. This can lead to incorrect results being reported. Any requests for electrophoresis, immunoglobulins or paraprotein will be rejected if received with a heparin sample.

Dynamic function tests

When requesting any dynamic function tests please adhere to the following guidelines

- Always send ALL samples for a glucose tolerance test or a short synacthen test together and not separately.
- When a dynamic function test is requested multiple labels will print out with the time intervals (e.g. 0, 30 and 60 mins) these need to be affixed to the corresponding sample.
- All samples must be labelled with the correct date and time of collection.

Sample Labelling

The laboratory is experiencing significant issues with poorly labelled samples and poor quality barcodes. The impact of this is significant delays in sample processing. The following poster illustrates how the sample label should be aligned on the sample tubes as well as examples of how not to label. Barcodes should print out clearly, be straight with clear space at the top and bottom of the label. If labels are faded or misaligned please contact the IM&T department. Please print out and display in your clinical areas.

Sample transportation via air-tube system

The air-tube system has experienced a significant amount of downtime in the last 2 months because of leaking samples. **Please ensure that urine/fluid containers are securely closed and sealed in specimen bags.**

The following samples must **NOT** be sent via the air-tube

- Risk of VHF
- High likelihood of Mtb.
- Risk of CJD/BSE/prion
- Individual sample liquid volume of greater than 50ml
- Combined sample volume of greater 100ml
- Contain formaldehyde – with the exception of specialist neuropathology samples.

Individual samples **must be in sealed** in appropriately coloured specimen bag. Samples for separate pathology departments must not be placed in the same specimen bag, failure to separate samples appropriately at collection will cause unnecessary delay in the laboratory

- Blood sciences - Red
- Infection Sciences - Blue
- Histology - Yellow
- Cytology - White or white/purple
- Genetics - Clear

Ordering Pathology Consumables

All orders for Pathology Consumables should be forwarded to PathologyConsumablesSouthmead@nbt.nhs.uk or via our on-line form which can be found at:- www.nbt.nhs.uk/severn-pathology/requesting/consumables-ordering . Please note we are no longer receiving fax or telephone orders.

Pathology guide to the Worst Dressed Tubes

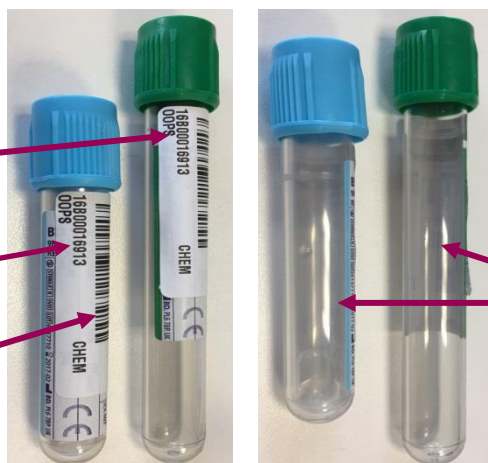
Pathology analysers are very smart, but they do require a certain standard and placement of the barcode label in order to function correctly and efficiently.

You can help us by following the guide below:

Place label directly under cap

Name & number at top

Barcode straight



Leave visible window so we can see blood volume

Get it straight—reduce the wait

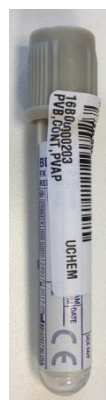
The following fashion statements are not appropriate for work



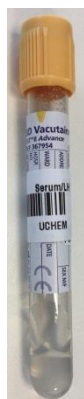
The wrap around



Wrinkled



Turtleneck



Cinched Belt



Biggle's Scarf



Topsy Turvy



Off the Shoulder