



**North Bristol**  
NHS Trust

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8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Colleague

**Withdrawal of Faecal Reducing Substances / Sugar Chromatography analysis**

With support from the Paediatric Gastroenterology team at the Bristol Children's Hospital and in line with University Hospitals Bristol Metabolic Laboratory we have taken the decision to withdraw Faecal reducing substances (sugar chromatography) from our test repertoire here at Southmead Hospital in Bristol.

This test has historically been requested to screen faeces for the presence of lactose to support a diagnosis of lactose intolerance as a cause of osmotic diarrhoea. However, there is a lack of published evidence to support its use in this context. Trialling a lactose free diet and monitoring symptoms, is likely to be more informative.

Should you have any queries relating to the removal of this service these can be directed to the Head of Biochemical Genetics, Consultant Chemical Pathologist, Dr Helena Kemp on [Helena.Kemp@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:Helena.Kemp@nbt.nhs.uk).

Yours sincerely

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