North Bristol NHS Trust

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Core Clinical Services Directorate

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Dear Colleague

Withdrawal of Urine Reducing Substances / Sugar Chromatography analysis

We have taken the decision to withdraw urine reducing substances (sugar chromatography) from our test repertoire here at Southmead Hospital in Bristol.

This test has been used historically as a first line screen in infants with prolonged/conjugated jaundice to detect galactosaemia and to diagnose other disorders of carbohydrate metabolism. Unfortunately the test is known to have limited sensitivity, and these disorders should not be ruled out on the basis of a negative reducing substances test result.

Classical Galactosaemia

The following alternative tests for galactosaemia provided by our laboratory are more specific (and have a shorter turn-around time):

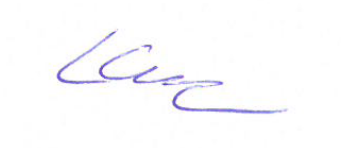
- Galactosaemia screen (Beutler test) if baby not transfused. 1 mL whole blood - lithium heparin tube.
- Urine Galactitol (first line test if baby has had a red cell transfusion). 5 mL urine – plain container

Hereditary Fructose intolerance:

Urine reducing substances also has limitations when screening for the presence of fructose. Under UKGTN testing criteria, samples for genetic testing of the Aldolase B gene (Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge) are accepted based on clinical /family history, without a prerequisite for biochemical testing.

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 Kemp on Helena.Kemp@nbt.nhs.uk.

Yours sincerely



Leila Cornes
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Biochemical Genetics & Newborn Screening