

Department of Clinical biochemistry

Severn Pathology

Southmead Hospital

Westbury-on-Trym

Bristol BS10 5NB

Telephone: 0117 4148437

Website: www.nbt.nhs.uk

Dear colleague,

Change to 5-HIAA testing – plain 24hr urine containers, Spring 2026

As of Spring 2026, the Department of clinical biochemistry will no longer require 24-hour urine collections for 5-HIAA to be received in acetic acid containing 24hr urine collection bottles.

This practice has been driven through data shared by the referral lab which processes these collections.

IT changes to ICE requesting and other clinical systems are in progress, but know that a 24hr urine container for 5-HIAA will now be accepted in **plain** containers.

Please continue to supply the advice leaflet for 5-HIAA testing alongside a plain 24hr urine container, as this will be necessary for elements of patient preparation.

Please refer to the Severn Pathology website for further information about 5-HIAA testing:
<https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/severn-pathology/requesting/test-information/5-hiaa>.

For further information please contact the Duty Biochemist at: 01174148437.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Nathan Cantley MRes FRCPath
Consultant Chemical Pathologist



Ingrid Barker, Joint Chair.
Maria Kane, Chief Executive.

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