

Blood Sciences Laboratory Standard Operating Procedure

Blood Sciences Test Database

Internal Tests Biochemistry

Assay	Turnaround-time (M-F 9-4.30)			Available, out-of-hours, BH, weekends	Sample type	Notes
	Inpatient	GP/OP	Urgent requests			
COMMON TESTS						
Blood gases	-	-	30mins	Yes	Heparinised syringe	
COHb	-	-	30mins	Yes	Dark Green	
MetHb	-	-	30mins	Yes	Dark Green	
U/E	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	Yellow	
LFT	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	Yellow	
Bone profile	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
Amylase	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
Glucose	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Grey	
Troponin	2h	2h	2h	Yes	4ml Yellow	
HCG	4h	24h	-	Limited service	4ml Yellow	Routine samples must reach lab by midday Saturday/Sunday. Outside of these times or for faster turnaround, the Duty Biochemist should be contacted.
Ammonia	-	-	90mins	Yes	1.3ml Purple	
Lactate	-	-	90mins	Yes	4ml Grey – limited stability	
Chloride	-	-	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
AST	4h	24h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
LDH	4h	24h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
Bicarbonate-serum	4h	4h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
Bile acids	4h	24h	-	DB	4ml Yellow	
Bilirubin – Direct Fraction	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	

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CK	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
HbA1c	72h	72h	-	-	4ml Purple	
Lipids	4h	24h	-	Yes	4ml Yellow	
Magnesium	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
Uric Acid	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
URINE						
Urine U&E	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	Fresh random (plain)	
Urine calcium	48h	48h	-	-	24h collection (plain)	
Urine Phosphate	48h	48h	-	-	24h collection (plain)	
Bence Jones Protein - Urine	10d	10d	-	-	Fresh random (emu preferred) (plain)	
Microalbumin - Urine	4h	24h	-	-	Fresh random (emu preferred) (plain)	
Protein - CSF	4h	-	90mins	Yes	0.5ml (plain container)	
Protein - Urine	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	Fresh random – not EMU (plain)	
DRUGS						
Alcohol	7d	7d	-	-	Grey	Limited service available only for non-legal cases. RSH only
Carbamazepine	4h	24h	90mins	DB	4ml Yellow	4h/90min applies to RSH only
Digoxin	4h	24h	90mins	DB	4ml Yellow	
Iron	-	-	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	90min applies to PRH only. Overdoes only
Lithium	24h	24h	90mins	DB	4ml Yellow	
Paracetamol	-	-	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
Salicylate	-	-	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow	
Phenytoin	4h	24h	90mins	DB	4ml Yellow	TATs applies to RSH only
Theophylline	4h	24h	90mins	DB	4ml Yellow	TATs applies to RSH only
ENDOCRINE						
Cortisol	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
freeT3	48h	72h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
freeT4	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
FSH	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
LH	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
Oestradiol	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	Same day service for ovulation induction only.
Progesterone	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Red	
Prolactin	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
SHBG	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	
Testosterone	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow	

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Thyroid peroxidase antibodies	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow
TSH	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow
TUMOUR MARKERS					
AFP	24h	48h	-	-	Yellow
CA125	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow
CA153	14d	14d	-	-	4ml Yellow
CEA	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow
PSA	24h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow
PTH	7d	7d	-	-	Purple with White ring
SPECIFIC PROTEINS					
Alpha 1 antitrypsin	48h	48h	-	-	4ml Yellow
C3	24h	24h	-	-	4ml Yellow
C4	24h	24h	-	-	
CRP	4h	24h	90mins	Yes	4ml Yellow
IgA	14d	14d	-	-	4ml Yellow
IgG	14d	14d	-	-	4ml Yellow
IgM	14d	14d	-	-	4ml Yellow
IgE	14d	14d	-	-	4ml Yellow
RAST tests	-	1month	-	-	4ml Red
Electrophoresis/Immunofixation	10d	10d	-	-	4ml Yellow
Cryoglobulins	10d	10d	-	-	6ml Yellow x2 at 37c
Rheumatoid factor	1d	1d	-	-	Yellow
AMH	14d	14d	-	-	Yellow
OTHERS					
Osmolality	24h	24h	DB	DB	Fresh random (plain)
Sweat test (analysis only)	4h	-	-	-	
Tissue transglutaminase antibodies	7d	7d	-	-	4ml Yellow (NOT Green)
Xanthochromia	2h	-	-	DB	2ml (plain universal container)

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Internal Tests Haematology

Assay	Turnaround-time (M-F 9-5.30)			Sample type	Notes
	Inpatient	GP/OP	Urgent requests		
Full Blood Count	4h	24h	1h	4ml Purple	
Blood film examination	24h	24h	2h	4ml Purple	
Bone Marrow Aspirate Examination	2wk	NA	12h	Bone Marrow Aspirate	Results for referred tests may take up to 2wks to be reported.
ESR	6h	24h	2h	4ml Purple	
Reticulocyte	4h	24h	1h	4ml Purple	
IM screen	24h	24h	6h	4ml Purple	
CCP screen	6wk	6wk	N/A	4ml Yellow	
Sickle screen	4h	N/A	1h	4ml Purple	
Malaria screen	1h	1h	1h	4ml Purple	1hr for rapid screen, 2hr for full report
Vitamin B12/folate	48h	48h	N/A	4ml Yellow	
Ferritin	48h	48h	N/A	4ml Yellow	
HIT Screen	4h	NA	2h	6ml Red	
Intrinsic factor antibody	6wk	6wk	N/A	4ml Yellow	
Prothrombin time	4h	24h	1h	3.5ml light blue	Dosing advice may take up to 24hr
APTT	4h	24h	1h	3.5ml light Blue	
Coagulation screen	4h	24h	1h	3.5ml light Blue	
D-Dimer	1h	1h	1h	3.5ml light Blue	
Intrinsic/Extrinsic factor assays (VIII, IX, XI, XII)	6wk	6wk	48h	3.5ML light Blue	
Factor Xa (Heparin) Assay	1wk	1wk	48h	3.5ml light Blue	
Lupus screen	6wk	6wk	N/A	3 x 3.5ml light Blue + 6ml Red if ACA required	
Anticardiolipin antibodies	6wk	6wk	N/A	6ml Red	
Haemoglobin electrophoresis A/N	N/A	3 working days	N/A	4ml Purple	Full report may take longer if referred elsewhere
Haemoglobin electrophoresis Other	N/A	1wk	N/A	4ml Purple	Initial report within 1wk – full report may take longer if referred elsewhere

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