

General Information about Clinical Biochemistry

Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

The following information provides details on how to use the Clinical Biochemistry Department. Details about the tests (eg sample tube, any special precautions, reference ranges and interpretation etc) can be found at <http://www.clinbiochem.info/hosptestinfo.html>.

Tests available

A wide range of tests are available on site and more specialised tests referred to external laboratories. See the website at <http://www.clinbiochem.info/hosptestinfo.html> for test details.

Requesting a test

1. The request form (green form) and sample must have **at least three legible corresponding pieces of information that identify the patient** (i.e. surname, forename and either NHS number -where possible - hospital registration number, or date of birth). A&E only can either use a hospital or A&E number.
2. Details on blood samples must be handwritten – bottles where addressograph labels are used will be rejected.
3. Please give clinical information and details of therapy. Many tests are reliant on this and failure to provide could result in an important test being omitted.
4. **For an urgent request phone Specimen Reception on 7510.**
5. Separated blood samples are retained for 7 days in a refrigerated state so that if additional tests are required on samples already in the department then this can be arranged. The time that any additional test is added on is noted on the report as some tests may be affected by a delay in analysis after the sample is taken from the patient.

High risk samples

All samples which are regarded as high risk should have both the request form and the sample labelled with the appropriate “high risk” sticker ie

HIV antibody positive.
Hepatitis B surface antigen or e antigen positive.
Hepatitis C positive.
Homosexual, i/v drug user
Sexual contact of any of the above.
Recent jaundice - cause not known.
Haemophiliacs treated with blood products.
Recipients of multiple transfusions of blood products.
Patients with clinical features of AIDS.

Location of the Laboratory

The Laboratory is situated on 'A' level (top floor). Following the signs for Pathology, at the T junction near the central lifts go down the corridor opposite the lifts and the Pathology department is first on the left double wooden doors. Pathology Reception is straight ahead.

Transportation of specimens

GP samples are transported to the laboratory for analysis using the service provided by Courier Logistics. Hospital samples are delivered either via the air tube system (instructions on use are available at each 'station' where samples are sent) or by hand to the Laboratory Specimen Reception Department. Please do not send the following by the air tube system though –

Ammonia
Blood Gases
CSF samples
Carboxyhaemoglobin
Methaemoglobin
Homocysteine
Vitamin analysis
Known or suspected High Risk samples

Biochemistry Laboratory opening times

Normal Service

Monday - Friday 0900 hrs - 1725 hrs

Saturday mornings 0900 hrs - 1300 hrs

Telephone numbers

Hospital Switchboard	01709 820000
Biochemistry Laboratory	01709 304241
Enquiries for previous results	01709 307553
Dr R Lord (Consultant Chemical Pathologist)	01709 304412
Mrs Claire Hawley (Secretary)	01709 304051
Mr R Ellis (Consultant Clinical Scientist)	01709 304103
Mr G Steel (Blood Sciences Manager)	01709 304232
Mr S Viney (BMS3, Head of Biochemistry)	01709 307714
Mrs A Diaz (BMS2)	01709 307714
Mrs W Taylor (BMS2)	01709 307714
Mrs Margaret Love (Specimen Reception Manager)	01709 304750

Out of Hours

The commonly requested tests available during normal working hours are available out of hours. See the list. The Biochemistry Biomedical Scientist (BMS) on-call and the Consultant / Clinical Scientist can be contacted via the Hospital switchboard.

If the Biochemistry BMS on-call is not contacted then the tests will be carried out at the next opportunity. **If required urgently then the BMS needs to be bleeped.**

Blood tests

U+E
Glucose
Potassium
LFT
Calcium profile
Amylase
CK
Bicarbonate
Chloride
LDH
Uric acid

Salicylate
Paracetamol

Troponin I

Lactate
Ammonia

Osmolality

Blood gases
COHb / MetHb

Bile acids

Other tests may be requested on call. If the clinical picture involves possible overdose then the following may need to be assayed

Iron
Lithium
Digoxin
Theophylline
Carbamazepine
Phenytoin
Phenobarbitone
Valproate
Ethanol

Hormone assays such as cortisol, TSH, fT4 may very rarely be required.

Urine

Sodium
Potassium
Osmolality
Protein
PBG
Trypsinogen 2 (UT2)

CSF

Glucose
Protein

If other tests are required then the consultant on-call will need to be contacted to discuss the requirements on a case by case basis. Contact switchboard to speak to the consultant on-call. Consultant cover is provided on a rotating cross-cover arrangement between Rotherham and Barnsley Hospitals - Dr Rob Lord (Rotherham), Mr Bob Ellis (Rotherham), Dr Anne Straffen (Barnsley)

Results

The results of tests are available electronically and also in paper form in some clinical areas. For routine biochemistry (eg U+E, glucose, LFT, calcium profile, lipids) the results are available the same day. Other smaller volume tests (eg SHBG) are performed every few days. Non-routine tests (eg vitamins) are performed according to sample numbers but usually on a weekly basis. Tests sent to other centres are usually available within 1-2 weeks but may be performed much more rapidly if required in some cases (discuss with consultant if this required)

Clinical Advice

Advice regarding Clinical Biochemistry tests and interpretation is available during normal working hours (Mon to Fri 9am-5pm) from the consultants Dr Rob Lord and Dr Bob Ellis via telephone or pager via switchboard. At other times contact switchboard to speak to the consultant on-call.