

Wednesday 14 October 2020 11am

Update on the biochemistry situation for GPs, clinical staff and senior leaders

Here is the latest update on the biochemistry situation.

There continues to be **no change** in the position at the moment. We have received some limited stock deliveries on all three hospital sites over the last 24 hours but we have not received sufficient test specific reagent, so we are continuing to rely on mutual aid.

We are confident we have sufficient supplies to get through the coming weekend, **based on our reduced usage. Given this, we are not in a position to return to normal services at this time.** We do not know what will be included on our deliveries so we cannot predict what reagent will arrive on our sites.

So we are asking all clinicians to continue with the current control measures please of requesting and taking only urgent biochemistry tests. We are not able to change the actions we have asked all clinicians to do at this point.

We will fully review the controls we have in place on Thursday 15 October ahead of the weekend and provide further advice.

As a reminder, the control measures are:

- **Do not request or perform anything other than clinically urgent biochemistry blood tests (blood and urine). Only consultants and GPs can request/authorise tests** if they are clinically urgent and essential for immediate patient care requiring a treatment change within the next 48 hours, or are critical to maintaining patient flow through our hospitals. Thank you for your support with this so far.
- Haematology, blood transfusion and microbiology are unaffected by Roche supplies

Clinically urgent biochemistry testing is defined as:

- A biochemistry test that is clinically needed to start a treatment change which is required within the next 48 hours in either primary or acute care including community hospitals. Only biochemistry testing including biochemistry urine testing is affected along with some specialist immune histology testing.
- All planned non urgent biochemistry booked and walk in tests should be cancelled for the rest of this week.

We are continuing to do everything we can to resume normal service as soon as possible. Your support is very much appreciated. Please be assured that we are planning for recovery and bearing in mind the backlog of tests which is accumulating, particularly in the community.

With kind regards

Dr Angela Tillett

Chief Medical Officer

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