

16 March 2010

Dear Practitioner

In this update we would like to report back to you on the most recent update we've had from the ARDHBs on the PMS results mapping initiative.

We also provide:

- important reminders regarding specialist and fertility referrals and hCG tests;
- an update on the screening of celiac disease;
- Labtests Easter 2010 collection services operating hours and locations; and
- Labtests Pathology Updates – sessions and topics.

UPDATE ON GP PMS RESULTS MAPPING INITIATIVE

Labtests has been working with an ARDHB working group to resolve the issue regarding the ability to create cumulative reports or graphs across lab results from different labs for the same test. The problem is caused by the fact that laboratories use different codes and descriptions for some tests and GP PMS systems are not able to map results from multiple labs.

The ARDHBs have informed us that the resolution of the GP PMS Results mapping initiative is taking longer than expected. To resolve this issue properly across the sector a standard set of requirements will be drawn up and provided to all GP PMS vendors to adhere to. The creation of this set of specifications has taken longer than expected.

The ARDHBs advise that until the mapping initiative is complete there is a short term alternative for GPs who require graphing across laboratory providers, increasing historic results. Most, if not all, GPs in the wider Auckland region have the ability to connect to the regional TestSafe system. The TestSafe system stores historic and current laboratory results from both community and DHB laboratories, including the ability to graph results across these laboratories.

GPs that do not have access to the TestSafe system can visit www.testsafe.co.nz to find more information about the service and how to get access.

REMINDERS REGARDING SPECIALIST AND FERTILITY REFERRALS AND hCG TESTS

Specialist and Fertility Referrals

Labtests is aware that some of the test request forms we receive via GPs are actually referrals from specialists or fertility clinics. Under our contract with the ARDHBs, all specialist and fertility clinic referrals must be directed to DML.

hCG Tests

For practitioners who require an urgent hCG result, the request form must be marked as 'urgent'. Requests for hCG that are not marked urgent will be treated as routine requests.

UPDATE ON SCREENING FOR CELIAC DISEASE FROM IMMUNOPATHOLOGIST, PROFESSOR BANNOCK TOH

Celiac disease affects 1% of Caucasians but remains largely undiagnosed. It no longer presents with classic full blown malabsorption syndrome. Instead it masquerades in a wide variety of forms such as irritable bowel syndrome, asymptomatic osteoporosis and iron deficiency anaemia of unknown cause.

IgA antibody to tissue transglutaminase

Tissue transglutaminase is the molecular target of endomysium antibody. IgA antibody to tissue transglutaminase is the optimal first line screening assay because it identifies up to 97% of patients with celiac disease. Endomysium antibody

is a useful confirmatory assay because, while it is less sensitive than the tissue transglutaminase assay, it is almost 100% specific for the disease.

IgG antibody to deamidated gliadin

Gliadin is derived from gluten. For gliadin to be pathogenic it must first be deamidated by tissue transglutaminase. This finding has led to the generation of the relatively new assay of IgG antibody to deamidated gliadin. The value of this antibody reportedly lies in the identification of the small proportion of patients with celiac disease who test negative for tissue transglutaminase antibody. It has also been reported to be useful for the identification of patients with celiac disease who are IgA deficient, given that IgA deficiency affects about 2% of patients with celiac disease. Early findings also suggest it may also be useful for the identification of children with celiac disease.

Standard antibody screening for celiac disease at Labtests

Based on the above, our standard antibody screening assay for celiac disease will soon be changing to test for IgA antibody to tissue transglutaminase coupled with IgG antibody to deamidated gliadin, with endomysium antibody as confirmatory backup.

Genetic testing for HLA-DQ2/DQ8

HLA-DQ2/DQ8 is present in about 40% of Caucasians. While almost all patients with coeliac disease have this genotype, they make up only about 3% of the Caucasian population. The implication of these observations is that while the presence of this genotype is consistent with celiac disease, it is not diagnostic. On the other hand the absence of this genotype virtually excludes coeliac disease.

Genotyping should therefore not be used as a first line test. Instead, it should be reserved for patients who refuse to take a gluten-containing diet or who, despite a high clinical suspicion of disease, test negative for tissue transglutaminase antibody or who have a normal small biopsy.

EASTER 2010 HOLIDAY COLLECTION SERVICES OPERATING HOURS AND LOCATIONS

To enable our staff to enjoy family holiday time over Easter, we will be operating reduced hours and locations.

For those patients that require regular tests, our home visits team will work with them to ensure they receive the care they require over this period. Home visit bookings will be available by phoning 0508 LABTESTS (0508 522 837), option '3'.

Our collection centres are displaying the below list of holiday opening locations and hours over the next few weeks and our MLOs will notify your practice if your local collection centre is affected over this period.

If you have any questions about our service during this time, please contact your MLO.

Good Friday			
Friday 2nd April 2010	Mt Wellington	37-41 Carbine Road	8am – 12 noon
Easter Saturday			
Saturday 3rd April 2010	Mt Wellington	37-41 Carbine Road	8am – 12 noon
	Papakura	132A Great South Road	8am – 12 noon
	Botany Road	301 Botany Road	8am – 12 noon
	Grey Lynn	58 Brown Street	8am – 12 noon
	Mt Roskill	223 Stoddard Road	8am – 12 noon
	Mairangi Bay	119 Apollo Drive	8am – 12 noon
	Glenfield	Level 2, Westfield Shopping Centre	8am – 12 noon
	Henderson	51 Lincoln Road	8am – 12 noon
	Massey	Westgate Shopping Centre	8am – 12 noon
Easter Sunday			
Sunday 4th April 2010	Mt Wellington	37-41 Carbine Road	8am – 12 noon

Easter Monday			
Monday 5th April 2010	Mt Wellington	37-41 Carbine Road	8am – 12 noon
	Papakura	132A Great South Road	8am – 12 noon
	Botany Road	301 Botany Road	8am – 12 noon
	Grey Lynn	58 Brown Street	8am – 12 noon
	Mt Roskill	223 Stoddard Road	8am – 12 noon
	Mairangi Bay	119 Apollo Drive	8am – 12 noon
	Glenfield	Level 2, Westfield Shopping Centre	8am – 12 noon
	Henderson	51 Lincoln Road	8am – 12 noon
	Massey	Westgate Shopping Centre	8am – 12 noon

LABTESTS PATHOLOGY UPDATES – SESSION REMINDERS AND TOPICS

Last week we commenced our 2010 Labtests Pathology Updates with presentations from Dr Vladimir Osipov, Anatomical Pathologist on “Problematic cases in Dermatopathology” and Dr Jeffrey Barron, Chemical Pathologist on “Why eGFR, proteinuria and other stories,” the interpretation of GFR and estimated GFR. Those who attended will shortly receive certificates confirming their attendance.

Our June meetings will focus on immunopathology and will be presented by Professor Ban-Hock Toh, who is consulting to Labtests from Gribbles Pathology in Melbourne.

Please make note of the below dates and times for this year’s Labtests Pathology Update sessions in Mt Wellington and on the North Shore. The sessions will follow the same format as the ones we held at the end of last year. Drinks and nibbles will be served from 6.30pm with the presentation beginning at 7.00 pm.

To RSVP please contact Karen Burnet on 09 574 7244 or email Karen.burnet@labtests.co.nz

Waipuna Lodge:

Wednesday 2 June 2010 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Wednesday 1 September 2010 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Wednesday 24 November 2010 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Bruce Mason Convention Centre:

Wednesday 9 June 2010 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Wednesday 8 September 2010 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Wednesday 1 December 2010 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Yours sincerely



Dr Craig Marshall
Chief Executive Officer



Dr Richard Lloyd
Medical Director