

Ref: JB/NK/13-203

9 July 2010

Dear

Re: Important Change to TPMT Service, 1st August 2010

I am writing to inform you that we will be bringing in a new improved TPMT service for all samples analysed after 1st August 2010. Key features of our new assay include:

- Our **"TPMT Activity"** test is **expressed in mU/L** whole blood.
- Our new assay **overcomes misleading high TPMT** results that can be seen in **anaemic patients**.
- **Genotyping:** We will continue to offer DNA analysis on relevant samples including confirming all deficient TPMT activity results. We make no additional charges for genotyping studies.
- **Price reduction:** Savings inherent in our new assay and volume growth enable us to reduce the price from £29.00 to £26.00 from 1st August.

The **reference ranges for our new assay will change**. It is important that any local changes to your computer systems and booking in procedures are considered now. The enclosed sheet gives the details of new reference intervals and also the set comments that we will be issuing.

Report forms will clearly indicate the new reference intervals. I enclose an updated user information leaflet, which can be downloaded from; www.cityassays.org.uk . The new assay is fully described in an article in the Annals of Clinical Biochemistry. (Barlow NL, Graham V, Berg JD. Expressing thiopurine S-methyltransferase activity as units per litre of whole-blood overcomes misleading high results in patients with anaemia, Ann Clin Biochem, July ePub 1 July 2010)

If you have any queries please contact Dr Nicola Barlow, the Clinical Scientist in charge of the service, on 0121 507 5205, email nicola.barlow@swbh.nhs.uk .

Yours sincerely



Dr Jonathan Berg
Head of Department

Information on Result Reporting for “TPMT Activity” Assay

Reference ranges for “TPMT activity”:

Deficient	<10
Low	20 - 67
Normal	68 - 150
High	>150

N.B. TPMT activities of 10 – 19 mU/L may be seen in TPMT deficient patients who have received blood products

Units are: mU/L

Set comments which are used when appropriate:

1. Recent blood transfusions may mask a deficient result.
2. Patient has undetectable TPMT activity and should not receive thiopurine drugs. Please send a second sample to confirm.
3. Sample for TPMT activity over 8 days old – interpret with caution
4. No collection date on request form or sample

Time Limited Set Comment:

Please note new units and reference ranges for TPMT Activity from 1.8.10

[Set comment to be reviewed at 12 months]

Version 1.2
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