

Directorate of Pathology

Department of Clinical Biochemistry

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Head of Department

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Head of Department

Ref: JDB/RG 04 June 2018

Dear Head of Department

Re: New service for misused Psychoactive Substances associated with recent deaths

I am writing about an important service that we are now offering for the detection of six psychoactive substances. These synthetic cannabinoids are currently being misused in the UK, with very serious consequences for patients and an associated significant burden on health care resources.

In our own hospital alone we have seen 33 acute presentations in 2018 so far, including several fatalities. Patients, who have taken these substances, in particular 5F-ADB, are giving us a great clinical challenge, not least because their presentation can vary from reduced consciousness with marked respiratory suppression, to severe agitation and psychosis. Recurrent seizures and cardiac arrhythmias are among the potentially life threatening complications. Early identification of these drugs can prevent unnecessary investigations, treatment and prompt appropriate health education and advice to users on recovery.

Service Details

Sample Requirements	Turn round time	Cost
4ml EDTA (plasma)	Within 1 working day*	£50.00

*Samples sent to us over the weekend are analysed as quickly as possible on Monday morning.

Further Information

I enclose a copy of the clinical user information leaflet about this test which is also available from our website.

For further information please see our website www.cityassays.org.uk. The Clinical Scientist overseeing this service is Dr Loretta Ford, Tel: 0121 507 6026, Email: loretta.ford@nhs.net or myself.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Berg
Pathology Director

Enc: Clinical user information leaflet

