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Questions or comments?

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Eastern Pathology Alliance



www.easternpathologyalliance.nhs.uk

If you have any requests for topics you'd like to see in future newsletters, please let us know...

EPA LAB NEWS

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We continue to develop the EPA website, regularly adding information about our services, and we have plans to add more, such as information around genetics. The information about tests is regularly updated as changes are made, this includes information about what blood bottle you need to take, and how quickly you'll get the results back. If there is anything else you would like to see please let us know...

Nigel Roberts

Newsletter Spotlight

ABNORMAL GP RESULTS NO LONGER PHONED TO BOTH 111 & SURGERIES

Following agreement between N&W ICB, 111 (IC24) and EPA, urgent results already phoned to 111 out of hours are now not phoned again to the surgeries on the following working day.

This will avoid unnecessary duplication as there is already a safe process in place for 111 to inform GPs of any clinical action undertaken by their teams out of hours.

CELL FREE FETAL DNA (cffDNA) TESTING SERVICE

The innovative cell free fetal DNA (cffDNA) testing service for RhD negative pregnant women has now been running at NNUH for five years. This test analyses DNA from the fetus found in the maternal circulation after 11+2 weeks of gestation and can accurately determine whether the baby is RhD positive. If so, the woman will be offered anti-D during the third trimester, and after delivery, to prevent her making immune anti-D. If the baby is RhD negative – as it is in 40% of cases – no anti-D treatment is needed, and the woman avoids a painful intramuscular injection of a blood product, albeit one with an excellent safety record.

In 2022/23, NNUH undertook almost 1400 cffDNA tests on pregnant women across our EPA network, with 96% of offered tests taken up. Each cffDNA test currently costs £28, against the cost of a dose of 1500 IU anti-D of £72.

We have had an increasing number of samples submitted which are unsuitable for testing in recent months. Please help us to get the cffDNA samples right first time, and share this information with your antenatal teams – to be acceptable for testing, cffDNA samples need to have:

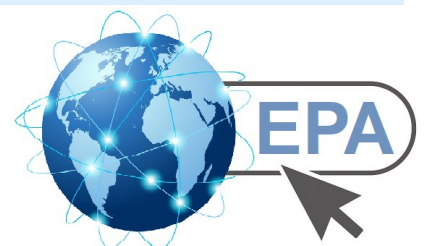
- **Clearly handwritten or EBTS/PDA labels only** – no other label type can be accepted
- **Correct information** - the most common errors are the D.O.B being written as today's date, incorrect spelling of names, and missing digits on NHS or hospital numbers
- **Minimum data set present** – surname, forename, D.O.B and NHS or hospital number
- **Sample collector identified** – the sample and form must both be signed, dated and timed by the collector
- **EDD by scan information** - EDD by scan is vital to ensure the sample has been taken at a suitable stage of the pregnancy, as they must be taken after 11+2 weeks
- **Fully filled samples in the right tube** - This test requires one full 6ml EDTA (pink top Vacutainer) only

Thank you for your help with this very successful service.

UPDATES TO THE EPA WEBSITE

Our EPA website has recently received a couple of new additions intended to help inform our users of updates which we hope will prove useful. The first is a new communications page where you can see our latest news and updates regarding certain tests, such as their accreditation status, as well as any changes to our service. We are also hoping to set up a continuous survey link on this page shortly, where you can leave us your feedback at any time... The second is a new FAQs page, which we would welcome your feedback and suggestions for, on how we can develop it further, with your needs in mind. You can get in contact with us via the [Contact Us](#) page on our website with your suggestions or queries.

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ONLINE ANDROLOGY APPOINTMENTS

Patients are now being asked to book their appointments for fertility or post vasectomy semen analysis tests online. Website details are provided on the WEBICE request form generated by their GP/clinician.

The direct link to the online appointment booking system is: Andrology streaming form - Formstack (<https://drdoctor-nnuh.formstack.com/forms/andrologyservice>)

Patients can also access the link and a QR code via the Eastern Pathology Alliance (EPA) website: <https://www.easternpathologyalliance.nhs.uk/departments/andrology/>

and also the NNUH and QEHLK hospital websites.

The QR code is also provided on the patient information leaflet that you should print and give directly to the patient with every new request.

If a patient is unable to access the online appointment booking system themselves, they can ask someone else to book it on their behalf or contact the laboratory office on 01603 646524.



SCAN HERE

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE DAY 2023

Biomedical Science Day 2023 – Essential Services Laboratory of the Eastern Pathology Alliance at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, hosted by the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Foundation Trust.

Another successful day following on from last year! Staff brought in homemade cakes and bakes, donated raffle prizes, helped support the workload while others attended and manned the display stand at the main entrance of the hospital, and helped donate towards a brilliant **£261.17!**



Lots of patients and staff stopped to ask questions about the laboratory. We shared our processes and answered questions. It felt good to interact with patients' and hear their stories on how we had positively impacted their or their loved one's treatment or stay in hospital.

We manned the stall 10am until 3pm, and then returned back to the department to draw the raffle tickets everyone waited impatiently for.

We received lots of generous donations for raffle prizes, from gardening sets to flavoured gins, and there was nearly a fight over the Tombleron, although Katie Jones was the winner in the end! Most of our money raised for Norfolk Blood Bikes came from the raffle, however staff also donated to our bake sale in the Tea Room.



We had red blood cell cupcakes, science cupcakes and gingerbread scientists (made by Jo Hallett) but to name a few – we were well fed that day!

We showed some students from local sixth forms, and some members of staff, including our CEO, Alice Webster, round the laboratory for a tour. We received fantastic feedback and have stayed in contact with them.

A massive thank you to everyone for getting involved and making it another day to remember.

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 Eastern Pathology Alliance 

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CORRECT LABELLING OF BLOOD TUBES GUIDE



Eastern Pathology Alliance



INCORRECT LABELLING



Wrong label on tube.



Poor quality barcode.



Barcode has been cut off by printer.



Barcode not straight.



Writing across barcode.



Barcode upside down and too low.

CORRECT LABELLING

REDUCE DELAYS AND RISK

GET IT STRAIGHT

LABEL MUST NOT BE WRINKLED ON TUBE

THE LAB LABEL INDICATES THE CORRECT TUBE TO COLLECT

WHITE
BLUE
YELLOW
GREEN
PURPLE
GREY



Barcodes must be straight.
Text must read top to bottom.



CHANGE OF EDTA BLOOD BOTTLES

EDTA purple tubes changed from 11 August 2023; smaller 2.7ml volume tubes are now being sent out to GP practices from EPA.

The performance and function of these tubes is the same as the 4ml tubes previously provided.

This change has been made to unify the tubes across the region and acute sites.

The only noticeable difference will be the colour of the cap is slightly lighter.
There is no change to phlebotomy technique or test results.

Please use up your remaining stocks of EDTA tubes before starting to use these new tubes.

OLD TUBE



NEW TUBE

Thank you for supporting Eastern Pathology Alliance with correct labelling requirements. **Incorrect labelling introduces risk of relabelling errors, delays patient results and increases workload of the laboratory.** Please share this with your staff, as this is crucial for patient safety and timely results.



QUESTIONS?

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