

Dear colleagues,

**Department of Blood Sciences laboratory equipment changes week commencing 09/09/2024**

This notification is to alert you to changes within Blood Sciences to our analytical platforms at Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust. Current equipment used by the department has been in place for many years. Following a tender process a new provider, Beckman Coulter UK (BCUK), has been awarded the contract. This will impact several assays, specifically:

- Alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) quantitation (AAT phenotyping has not changed equipment)
- Caeruloplasmin (CAER)
- Beta-2 microglobulin (B2M)
- Haptoglobin (HAPT)
- Immunoglobulins (IgA, IgM, IgG)

After a rigorous validation and training period these assays are transferring to the Blood Sciences automated laboratory equipment on **09/09/2024**.

Please see the later table summarizing changes to reference ranges. Where there are changes in assay performance and/or associated changes in decision limits we will be adding comments to the reported results to aid your interpretation. In addition, we will be updating information to our website both in the test information and the quality sections for your reference.

All tests included below, which were previously accredited by UKAS to ISO15189:2012, will now undergo an extension to scope process. Throughout this transition period please be assured that the quality of our services will remain the same.

Clinical oversight and the accreditation governance of these assays within Blood Sciences will remain shared between Clinical Biochemistry (AAT, CAER, HAPT) and Clinical Immunology (AAT, IgA, IgM, IgG, B2M).

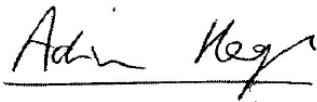


Ingrid Barker, Joint Chair.  
Maria Kane, Chief Executive.

A University of Bristol Teaching Trust.  
A University of the West of England Teaching Trust.

Your patience will be much appreciated as the laboratory embarks on this period of change. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via our main email address [bloodsciencesadmin@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:bloodsciencesadmin@nbt.nhs.uk).

Yours Sincerely,



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Analyte	Current reference range	New reference range from 09/09/2024
<b>Alpha-1 Antitrypsin</b>	1.2 – 2.0 g/L	1.1 – 2.0 g/L
<b>Caeruloplasmin</b>	Adult males: 0.21 – 0.40 g/L Adult Females: 0.23 - 0.60 g/L Paediatric specific reference ranges.	0.20 – 0.32 g/L – Wilson’s disease is highly unlikely. 0.10– 0.19 g/L- Wilson’s disease is not excluded. <0.10 g/L – Highly suggestive of Wilson’s disease.
<b>Beta-2-microglobulin</b>	1.1 – 2.6 mg/L	≤ 60 years old – 0.8 – 2.4 g/L > 60 years old - ≤3.0 mg/L
<b>Haptoglobin</b>	0.32 – 1.97 g/L	0.3 – 2.0 g/L
<b>Immunoglobulins</b>	Please see: <a href="#">Immunology Age related reference ranges Jan 2015.pdf (nbt.nhs.uk)</a>	No change to existing reference ranges



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