

12th December 2019

All GPs
All Practice Managers

Biochemistry Department

Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 825046
01225 824050 (Duty Biochemist)

nicola.pullan@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk/pathology

Dear Colleague,

Update: laboratory cascade testing of serum Free Light Chains in patients with newly identified paraproteins ...

I am writing to update you on our testing procedures when we are screening patients for the presence of a paraprotein. **The current RUH screening test for myeloma** is serum Protein Electrophoresis (EP) along with urine Bence Jones Protein (BJP) analysis (please click the Myeloma Screen profile on ICE to ensure all relevant tests are requested).

If a serum paraprotein is detected, the laboratory will add analysis of serum Free Light Chains (sFLC), this aids risk stratification of Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS) and is useful for monitoring in Myeloma. In this case, **sFLC replaces the need for urine BJP analysis**. Patients should be referred or monitored on the basis of serum EP and sFLC, along with other routine haematology and biochemistry tests. For this reason, we **will no longer analyse urine for BJP following detection of a serum paraprotein but use sFLC instead**. In cases where we have chosen not to analyse urine for BJP, requestors will be informed on the urine BJP report and directed to other relevant test results.

Where an abnormality has not been detected by serum EP, urine samples will continue to be analysed for BJP, if at this point the urine is found to be BJP positive, sFLC will be added by the laboratory, the results of which will determine the need for referral and further investigation.

Please note, sFLC should not be requested directly in primary care unless specifically advised by a Haematologist or Clinical Biochemist. Although, we are aware of NICE NG35 supporting sFLC use it is currently not funded for use in primary care and will need this before we can move to frontline use.

In addition, **a profile for monitoring MGUS patients** will soon be available for use on ICE, this is to ensure that all relevant tests are performed in your patients who are being monitored for MGUS and in the future will allow the laboratory to provide more tailored advice on the basis of the results obtained.



A copy of this update will be made available on the Biochemistry Clinical Guidelines page of the Pathology Website, which is now starting to be populated with useful clinical guidelines.

https://www.ruh.nhs.uk/pathology/departments/biochemistry_guidelines.asp?menu_id=1

Lipid Clinic information/referral guide, useful contact numbers as well as blood test information can all be found on the Pathology website.

Please get in touch if you have any queries about this change and as always, we welcome any feedback on our service.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Pullan PhD FRCPATH
Consultant Clinical Scientist in Biochemistry