



Mail Bags

South Sector

Recently there has been an increased incidence of blood samples being delivered to the QEUH labs in the wrong mail bags. Consequently, blood samples are delivered to the wrong discipline, causing a delay in processing and ultimately leading to samples being unsuitable for analysis.

The colour of mail bags are **discipline-specific** - only samples for that discipline should be put into those bags.



GREEN BAG

Biochemistry ONLY



PINK BAG

Haematology ONLY



BLUE BAG

Microbiology ONLY

Please ensure you have the correct coloured mail bags for your samples. Supplies can be ordered via PECOS.

Lipid Profile

Routine investigations for cardiovascular risk assessment include lipid profile, thyroid function, LFTs and HbA1c.

- For the majority of patients, **lipid profile DOES NOT require a fasting sample.**
- Fasting may be useful in patient with **severe hypertriglyceridaemia (Triglycerides >10 mmol/L)**



The revised GGC Clinical Guidelines on Coronary Heart Disease and Stroke, Primary and Secondary Prevention (Cholesterol) can be found at [chd-stroke.pdf \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/chd-stroke.pdf)

Change to Drugs of Abuse testing

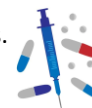
On 27/11/23, the QEUH Toxicology service changed to a new screening method for drugs of abuse screening in urine. The method uses Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS).

The main advantages of this test are:

- Opiate drugs are automatically specified on every report e.g. 6MAM/Morphine/Codeine/DHC, rather than 'Opiates' group Positive with a second line confirmation test required to identify the individual drug(s) present.
- The ability to screen for both the parent drug and metabolite of drugs prescribed therapeutically e.g. Methadone & Buprenorphine. This can help to monitor compliance by detecting 'spiked' samples where the parent drug is detected without its metabolite.
- Differentiation between prescribable benzodiazepine drugs (e.g. Diazepam) and commonly used street benzodiazepine drugs (e.g. Etizolam).
- Extended screening of drugs which were previously not detected by immunoassay testing e.g. Pregabalin, Gabapentin, Tramadol, Oxycodone, Zopiclone & Ketamine.
- Increased sensitivity and specificity resulting in a reduced risk of false negative and false positive results.

Further information on the new test can be downloaded from:

[NHS GGC South Glasgow Toxicology Information for Users - NHSGGC](#)



EMAIL FOR NON-URGENT CLINICAL ADVICE

To improve the service for our users, we have set up a new email account for **non-urgent** clinical advice ggc.qeuhbiochemistsggc@nhs.scot. For **urgent queries**, please call **0141 354 9060 – Option 4**.

***Please do not use this email for Add-On requests – instead non-urgent add-on requests should be sent to :-**
SouthGlasgow.BiochemistryAddOn@ggc.scot.nhs.uk



We would be delighted to receive feedback on issues that you would like us to address in the newsletter. We are also keen to reach as large an audience in primary care as possible. Do you have suggestions how we can widen distribution?

Comments or suggestions can be sent to:

Jane McNeilly (jane.mcneilly@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)
Consultant Biochemist