



North Glasgow Sector

qFIT Samples

There has been a significant increase in the number of qFIT requests received by the Biochemistry Department. To reduce delays in processing these samples within specimen reception, please ensure that:

- Samples are delivered to the lab ASAP after the ICE request has been made. Delays mean requests must be booked in manually, thereby increasing both the processing time and the risk of errors.
- Samples are contained within the green specimen bag only. The green bag does not need to be placed in an additional clear specimen bag.



We have also received several qFIT pickers which expired at the end of May. Please check the expiry dates on your current supply.

Allspice Allergen – test no longer available

Immunology can no longer offer specific IgE to Allspice as it has been withdrawn from the supplier's product list. If you have any specific queries about this please contact the department for advice.

Biochemistry service at GRI

We would like to thank our users for their patience and understanding during the disruption to services caused by the equipment upgrade in our automated core laboratory. We would hope to recommence same day analysis for GP workload on 4th October 2021.

Further work is required to install a new automated sample storage and retrieval system. We still have limited sample storage and retention capacity, which limits our ability to process add on requests. We will communicate with users as soon as we have firm dates available for a return to processing add on requests.

Please contact us if you have any questions. The Reporting Biochemist can be contacted by telephoning 0141 242 9500 and selecting option 2, Mon-Fri, 09.00-17.00h.

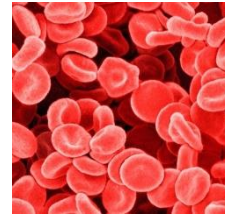


Vitamin B12 and folate requesting

Biochemical testing for folate and vitamin B12 is resource intensive in terms of test duration. Following analysis of request data, we would like to ask for assistance of primary care practices in achieving optimal use of these tests. We would ask that folate and vitamin B12 tests not be requested in parallel with a full blood count (FBC) as a first-line test for suspected anaemia and instead requested subsequently only where indicated by the FBC abnormalities shown in the table below. This avoids unnecessary testing in samples from patients with normal FBC results, although we acknowledge the need to balance this against the alternative resource and inconvenience of repeat phlebotomy appointments.

Haematological indications for B12/folate testing:

- Elevated MCV (>101 fl)
- Low Hb (<130/115 (M/F) g/l)
- Low platelets (<150 x10⁹/l)
- Low neutrophils (<2 x10⁹/l)



In April 2019, North Glasgow biochemistry received a total of 3246 haematinics results from primary care. Of these, 973 (30 %) were requested in parallel with a FBC which showed no haematological abnormalities indicating haematinics measurement.

These **973 unnecessary tests** correspond to over **1540 hours** of analyser time **over 1 month**.

Certain GP practices and individual GPs were disproportionately responsible for inappropriate co-requests. One practice of 3 GPs had a total of 60 requests, with one GP responsible for 42 of these.

The **Scottish Atlas of Variation in Laboratory Testing** shows request data for individual practices for all tests. It is now available to view at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/ims.requests.team#!/vizhome/AoVGPViewsPublicv2/GPDashboardRequestRates>

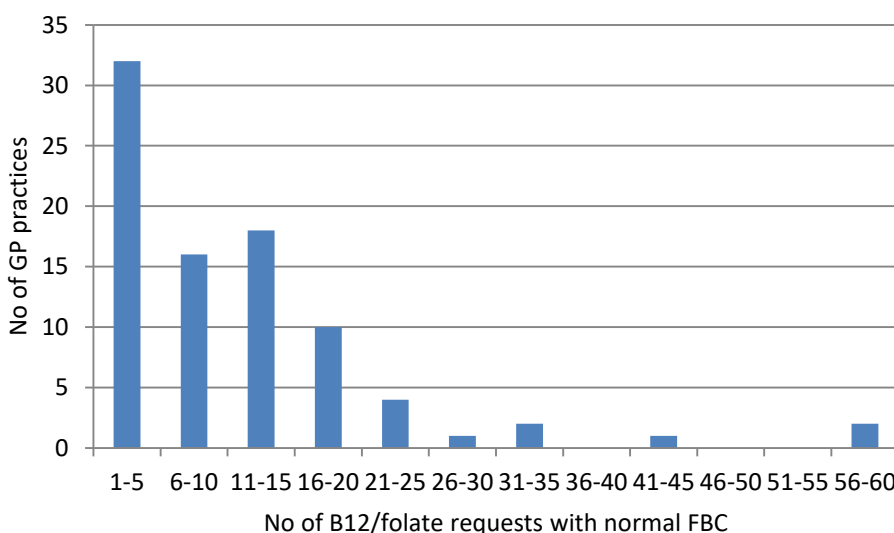


Figure 1. Distribution of inappropriate haematinics requests according to requesting location

We would be delighted with your 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:

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