

Tests that must not be collected at the GP surgery

There are certain tests that are unsuitable for collection outside the hospital setting. Often these are tests requested by a secondary care physician. There are several reasons for this including:

- the sample is unstable and must reach the laboratory quickly
- there are funding restrictions around the use of the test
- testing will only be carried out following prior discussion with the laboratory

Samples that can not be tested will be rejected which frustrates doctors and any repeat testing worries patients. Please share the table below with your practice phlebotomists so that we can reduce unnecessary repeat testing and worry.

Tests	Reason for unavailability
Blood adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), aldosterone, ammonia, biotinidase, calcitonin, chromogranin A and B, cold agglutinins, C-peptide, cryoglobulins, free fatty acids, gastrin, glucagon, gut hormone profile, insulin, pancreatic polypeptide, plasma metanephrines, renin, somatostatin, vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP), white cell enzymes	Analyte unstable Must be taken at K&CH, QEPMH or WHH
Urine bilirubin, urobilinogen, glucose, ketones	Analyte unstable Test using reagent strip analysis on a fresh urine sample at the surgery
Anti-mullerian hormone (AMH)	Test not funded for primary care
Citrullinated cyclic peptide (CCP) antibodies, chromium, cobalt	Test not funded for primary care
Chromium, cobalt, manganese	Risk of sample contamination Must be taken at K&CH, QEPMH or WHH
Clozapine	Sample must be sent directly to Clozaril Monitoring Service May be taken and posted from GP surgery
Carnitine and acyl carnitine profile	May be taken on children's wards
Troponin I	Patients with chest pain should attend A&E or Emergency Care Centre Other requests MUST be arranged with the Duty Biochemist 01233 616060 and relevant clinical details included on the request form