

Berkshire & Surrey Pathology Services
Wexham Park Hospital
Slough
SL2 4HL

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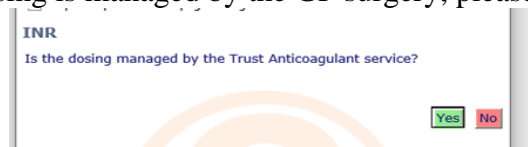
Dear Colleagues

RE: INR sample acceptance and test requesting pathway

Following recent incidents, we would like to remind our teams of the acceptance criteria for INR samples and the test requesting pathway.

Acceptance criteria:

- Collected in 3.2% sodium citrate tubes filled to completion as marked on the tube
- Correctly labelled with patient details, date & time sample was taken
- Samples should be stored at room temperature prior to testing
- Samples should be transported daily. PT/INR samples are stable for 24 hours, after this period samples will be rejected. If samples miss transport, this should be recorded locally, and the patient contacted for repeat bloods. The sample should be discarded. Any samples received in the laboratory 24 hours after being taken will be rejected.
- Patients that require Warfarin dosing by the Hospital Trust Anticoagulant team, should select **Yes** at the test requesting stage when asked, 'Is the dosing managed by the Trust Anticoagulant service?' The results will be forwarded to the Hospital Trust team to act upon. If Warfarin dosing is managed by the GP surgery, please select **No**.



Rejection criteria:

- Over/underfilled as this leads to an incorrect blood to citrate ratio
- Incorrectly labelled- Wrong name or no date/time
- Received 24 hours after the sample was taken

There are other circumstances where the test maybe rejected, however the above mentioned are the most common.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries Duljeet.chohan1@nhs.net.

Kind Regards,

D.K. Chohan

Duljeet Kaur Chohan
Site Lead Haematology/Blood Sciences