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Head of Laboratory:
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Dear User,

Following an internal review of clinical effectiveness, I am writing to inform you of a change to our service regarding the karyotyping of patients and their partners with recurrent miscarriages. As of 1st December 2017 we will no longer be accepting samples from these patients. Samples received after this date will not be tested and a letter of rejection will be issued.

This decision is consistent with the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology guidelines (2011) that recommend karyotyping should not be undertaken on patients with recurrent miscarriages and ensures consistency across the region, with the genetics laboratories in Sheffield and Newcastle having already discontinued this service.

There are some exceptions where karyotyping should still be considered.

- Where another family member has a chromosome abnormality and the patient at risk is experiencing miscarriages.
- Where an abnormality is detected in a tissue sample from a failed pregnancy that could have arisen from a balanced parental rearrangement.

We will continue to offer testing for the products of conception from the third miscarriage, as recommended in the RCOG guidelines. If an abnormality is subsequently detected that could have arisen from a balanced parental rearrangement, both parents should then be karyotyped

The current strategy in our laboratory is to test a limited cohort of obstetric tissue samples for genetic imbalances using CNV sequencing. This cohort will now be extended to include samples received from patients experiencing recurrent miscarriages (more than 3) or have suffered a miscarriage in the second trimester, consistent with RCOG guidelines

CNV sequencing is a molecular based approach that offers a higher resolution analysis of the genome compared to karyotyping. It is also able to detect abnormalities from the DNA of tissue that would not be amenable to culture and karyotyping.

For more information please contact me via e-mail (stephen.morris8@nhs.net) or refer to our website:

http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/a-z-of-services/the-leeds-genetics-laboratory/

Yours faithfully

S. P. Morris (Consultant Clinical Scientist)
Lead for Sevice Improvement