

Leeds Genetics Laboratory  
St James University Hospital  
Beckett Street  
Leeds Teaching Hospitals  
LS9 7TF  
05/12/2018  
Array enquiries: 0113 206 5419  
Website: [www.leedsth.nhs.uk/genetics/](http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/genetics/)

**Re: Change of microarray platform from oligo array to SNP array technology from 7th January 2019**

Dear Array service user,

We are writing to inform you of an important change to the microarray service which has arisen due to the consolidation of testing between Newcastle, Leeds and Sheffield Genetics Laboratories (see below for further information).

The platform the Leeds laboratory uses to perform microarray testing will switch from an oligo array platform to a SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) array platform. This technology offers greater sensitivity, higher resolution, and can detect large regions of homozygosity, such as may be observed in uniparental disomy. This is therefore expected to be of benefit to the diagnostic pathway.

This change will not affect sample requirements or referral pathways and will not be expected to have a detrimental impact on turnaround times. The wet laboratory work will be undertaken by the Newcastle laboratory with the analysis, reporting and issuing of results all being performed by the Leeds laboratory.

From the 7th January samples will be transitioned across to this new platform. Users will therefore receive both oligo and SNP reports, depending on the technology used, until the backlog of samples processed by oligo array has been reported. The reports will stay in the current format with minor changes.

Service users will be kept informed of any changes to reporting through further letters and updates to the information available via our website.

Should you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact the microarray team on 0113 206 5419.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Ruth Charlton (FRCPath)

Scientific Lead for Rare Diseases

*In response to NHS England's recent Strategy and Service Specification for the future of Genomics services in England, Newcastle Teaching Hospitals, Leeds Teaching Hospitals, Sheffield Children's Trust, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and NewGene have come together as the Yorkshire and North East Genomic Laboratory Hub; an exciting collaboration to provide services for Genomics across Yorkshire and Humber and the North.*