Haematological Malignancy Cytogenetics Service User Notifications

Dear Colleague,

Please can we draw your attention to the information below related to the haemato-oncology karyotyping service delivered by the Central Laboratory in Leeds for the North East and Yorkshire Genomic Laboratory Hub (NEYGLH).

Cessation of cytogenetic service for lymphoproliferative disorders ACTION REQUIRED

As you are aware, the delivery of genomic testing in our region is by the NEYGLH and the funding arrangements for this testing only apply to those tests listed in the NHSE cancer test directory: https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-genomic-test-directories/.

As a result, I am writing to notify you of a change to the cytogenetics service currently offered by the Leeds genomics lab for patients referred for the lymphoproliferative disorders plasma cell dyscrasia, CLL and lymphoma. In the NHSE cancer test directory, chromosome analysis is not listed as an appropriate test for these referral types. This is to be distinguished from FISH testing which is carried out by HMDS in Leeds for these cases, in addition to the sequencing.

For many years we have processed these bone marrow samples on receipt and then stored a fixed cell suspension for one year, in case chromosome analysis is requested by the referring clinician at a later date. A 12-month audit has shown that analysis is only requested in a minority of these cases with an abnormality rate of just 0.4%.

Therefore, from **17th February 2025,** due to increasing workload pressures and the low clinical utility, **we will no longer be accepting and processing samples** for cases being referred to HMDS for a primary non-acute lymphoproliferative disorder ie. a **bone marrow will not be required for cytogenetics**, with the exception of any paediatric case that might fall into this category**.**

We would, therefore, be grateful if you could ensure samples are no longer sent to us from this dateas they will be discarded.

Please note, this applies to chromosome analysis only. HMDS will continue their testing repertoire as usual for these diseases.

If there are any cases where you think cytogenetic or SNP array analysis would be helpful in the future, please contact the laboratory directly.

We trust you will find this an acceptable change in service.
If you have any further concerns or comments, please contact us directly.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Helen Thomas
Laboratory Services Manager

Julie Atkey
Deputy Head of Service (Oncology)

North East and Yorkshire Genomic Laboratory Hub, Central Lab (Leeds)