

## Directions for Clinicians

### Requesting a Bone Marrow Aspirate &/or Trephine Biopsy - Pathlab Waikato Region

#### 1. Indication and Request

Bone marrow aspirate and/or trephine biopsy procedures are performed for approved haematological and oncological indications, as determined by the referring clinician.

The requesting clinician is responsible for:

- Confirming the clinical indication
- Ensuring completion of all required documentation
- Verifying patient understanding and consent prior to the procedure
- Determining if the patient can have the procedure under local anaesthesia or not. Patients with BMI > 30, poor tolerance to pain, significant anxiety or personal preference should have the bone marrow collection booked in the hospital under light/conscious sedation. For this pathway, please refer patient to haematology via best practice system.

#### 2. Referral Pathway

Bone marrow procedures **require a scheduled appointment** and **cannot be performed as walk-in tests**.

Referrals should be directed as follows:


- **Pathlab Reception** – please email to [receptionPLW@pathlab.co.nz](mailto:receptionPLW@pathlab.co.nz)
- **All referrals are reviewed by consultant before authorised to be booked.** Clinical indication is essential for proper review. Letter with declined requests will be sent to the requesting clinician.

When booking, advise:

- Urgency of request
- Any patient factors affecting procedure (e.g. anticoagulation, mobility, infection risk). If patient is on anticoagulation, please inform if safe to interrupt.

#### 3. Appointment booking

The laboratory reception will contact patient to arrange this BM appointment, if you have any queries related to this booking please contact:

- **Pathlab Waikato (Hamilton) reception**  
 07 858 0795

#### 4. Documentation Requirements

The following documents **must accompany the referral**:

1. **Completed Bone Marrow Request** – Using standard laboratory request form.
  - Include full clinical details and relevant history
  - Clearly state indication and urgency
2. **Patient Information Provided**
  - [Bone Marrow Biopsy – Patient Information Sheet](#)

#### 5. Consent and Patient Information

The requesting clinician (or delegated appropriately trained practitioner) is responsible for:

- Providing [Bone Marrow Biopsy and Aspirate Information](#) to the patient
- Answer any initial patient questions
- Ensure informed consent
- (Consent documentation will be completed by Haematologist).

## **6. Urgent Requests**

For **URGENT REQUESTS**:

- Clearly mark “**URGENT**” on the request form
- Contact the laboratory directly to discuss timing and prioritisation

## **7. Processing and Registration Information**

- Processing requirements will be managed by Pathlab
- Incomplete clinical details may delay processing or reporting
- The result will be sent to requesting clinician, with typically a 14-working days turnaround.

## **8. Responsibility Summary**

The referring clinician remains responsible for:

- Clinical appropriateness of the request
- Patient education
- Accurate and complete documentation
- Clear communication of urgency