



Vitamin D Testing

The manufacturer of the Vitamin D assay currently in use at Health Waikato has announced that there are technical problems with the assay, resulting in erroneous results in some patients. A voluntary recall of the assay has been announced.

Starting on 5 January 2011, samples sent to Health Waikato will be referred to Canterbury Health laboratories (CHL) which uses a reference assay. However, they are close to maximum capacity and will only accept 200 samples per month – currently Health Waikato are receiving > 900 samples per month. Vitamin D testing needs to be limited to a select group of patients.

We will accept all requests from paediatricians and endocrinologists.

All other requests need to be justified

Indications are:

- Metabolic bone diseases such as rickets, osteomalacia, osteogenesis, imperfecta
- Malabsorption
- Unexplained elevated ALP
- Unexplained low Calcium or phosphate
- Unexplained proximal limb pain in older people
- Unexplained bone pain
- Strong reason to suspect SEVERE Vitamin D deficiency

Following a request, Pathlab will send a comment (see below) linked with the request number:

“Vitamin D testing is restricted to patients with metabolic bone disease (see Health Waikato website for details). The referral laboratory accepts 200 samples per month. If the patient fulfills criteria, send an email to restrictedtest@waikatodhb.health.nz with the request number (not NHI number) and indications. You must have “25pax” in the subject box. The sample will be forwarded for testing if criteria are met AND we are within our quota.”

This situation is unlikely to change within the next 6 months but I will update you.

Stephen du Toit
Clinical Director
Health Waikato Laboratory

John Woodford
Biochemistry
Pathlab Waikato
(07) 858 0795

CLINICAL UPDATE