

DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Consultants, Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors, GPs
Clinical Nurse Managers and Phlebotomists

Re: anti-tTG antibodies

From: Dr Eleanor Wallace, Chief Medical Scientist

Date: 27th July, 2011

Measurement of anti-tissue transglutaminase (tTG) antibodies is a screening test for coeliac disease. Anti-tTG has a high sensitivity for untreated coeliac disease, while the anti-endomysial antibody (EMA) is more specific. False negative results may be seen in IgA deficiency, and also in patients on a gluten free diet.

From August 2nd, 2011, the Department of Immunology will provide a service for the measurement of anti-tTG. By performing these tests in-house (samples previously sent to St James's Hospital), the test turn around time will improve, and there will be significant cost saving for the hospital.

Anti-tTG should be requested using an Immunology Request Form (salmon coloured). A serum sample is required for this assay (gold or red cap).

The reference range for anti-tTG was recently changed by the referral laboratory. We have validated this reference range using the same methodology (Phadia 250, Elia).

<i>Test</i>	<i>Reference range</i>
Anti-tTG antibodies	0 – 7 U/mL

The anti-tTG assay is used as an initial screening test and all equivocal/positive sera will be further tested for EMA antibodies.

Please contact the Department of Immunology, if you need clarification on any aspect of this change or to discuss any results.

