

September 2021

**Re: Delays to North East & Yorkshire Genomic Laboratory Hub (NE&Y GLH) genomic testing services**

Dear Genomic Laboratory Users,

I am writing to advise that, for a combination of reasons centred around significant national and local reconfiguration of genomic services, challenges with staffing levels and supply chain issues, many of our current services are not being reported to the turnaround time guidelines that you may normally expect.

This is affecting services at each of our Genomic Laboratories; NE&Y GLH Central Laboratory including the Haematology Malignancy Diagnostic Service (HMDS) in Leeds, Sheffield Diagnostic Genetics Service, Newcastle Genetics Laboratory and the Newcastle Rare Mitochondrial Disorders Service. We continue to work together as the NE&Y GLH to manage recovery plans to rectify this and improve performance; however it will take several months before a significant improvement is apparent for some services.

Please be assured that we will prioritise the most urgent clinical work which includes:

- pregnant women undergoing prenatal diagnosis;
- patients needing urgent advice on carrier testing relating to pregnancy examples include cystic fibrosis, thalassaemia;
- those faced with abnormal fetal scans; critically ill neonates and children requiring assessment and those for whom the rapid PICU/NICU WES is appropriate;
- conditions where rapid genetic testing may alter clinical treatment or decision making; and
- patients requiring urgent testing, for example BRCA testing, to inform chemotherapy options.

In order to help us manage our current services, if you are uncertain whether a genetic test is suitable please do not hesitate to contact your local genomic laboratory before sending a sample.

We wish to thank you for your cooperation.

This is a general letter to users. We may issue more targeted communication on specific services as the situation changes.

Yours faithfully,



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