

Memorandum

TO: All Service Users

FROM:

- Mr John Gibbons, Laboratory Manager, Laboratory Medicine Directorate, St James's Hospital, Dublin
- Dr Vivion Crowley, Consultant Chemical Pathologist, Biochemistry Department, St James's Hospital, Dublin
- Mr Mark Neville, Chief Medical Scientist, Biochemistry Department, St James's Hospital, Dublin

DATE: 02/11/2018

RE: Changes to age-related Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) limits

Following the release in 2018 of the updated '**Prostate Cancer GP Referral Guideline**' by the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the age-related PSA limits reported by the Biochemistry Department, St James's Hospital, Dublin 8, are being amended as follows, in compliance with the NCCP guideline:

Current age-related PSA limits			New age-related PSA limits		
40-49 yrs	< 2.5	ng/mL	40-49 yrs	< 2	ng/mL
50-59 yrs	< 3.5	ng/mL	50-59 yrs	< 3	ng/mL
60-69 yrs	< 4.5	ng/mL	60-69 yrs	< 4	ng/mL
>70 yrs	< 6.5	ng/mL	>70 yrs	< 5	ng/mL

The New age-related PSA limits will be reported by the laboratory from 8th Nov 2018.

Please note:

1. The 2018 NCCP 'Prostate Cancer GP Referral Guideline' recommends that a PSA test should not be considered a routine test and should only be measured following informed shared decision making between the patient and their GP.
2. The NCCP also recommends that each patient should, if possible, have their PSA test measured in the same laboratory to ensure ongoing consistency and to facilitate disease monitoring and surveillance. This advice is indicated because there may be variation in PSA results obtained from different clinical diagnostic laboratories in the Republic of Ireland, due to the possible use of non-identical Total PSA assay methods i.e. different PSA assay manufacturers.
3. The full NCCP guideline can be viewed at the following link:
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/resources/gpreferrals/nccp-prostate-cancer-gp-referral-guideline.pdf>
4. In addition, please be aware that there has NOT been a change in the assay method used in our laboratory. Moreover, the manufacturer of our current assay, Roche Diagnostics, provides separate recommendations regarding age-related PSA limits, which differ to a varying extent from the NCCP 2018 guideline. If required, further details on this specific issue are available from the Biochemistry Department on request.
5. Finally, if you require any further information or clarification relating to the overall process please do not hesitate in contacting the laboratory on 01 4103592/4162935/ 4162041/4162047. Alternatively you can email
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Please bring this memo to the attention of appropriate members of your team.