



# MRHT Pathology Department Summary Tables of Departmental Turnaround Times

T/PATH/GL/001.13



Biochemistry Department			
Test Name/Profile	Routine	Priority	Critical
Routine Biochemistry (in-house patients) e.g. Renal/Liver/Bone	6 hrs	2 hrs	1 hr
Troponin T	3 hrs	2 hrs	1 hr
Gentamicin/Vancomycin	3 hrs	2 hrs	N/A
GP Samples*	Same day	3 hrs	N/A
Tumour Markers*	6 hrs	N/A	N/A
HbA1c*	6 hrs	N/A	N/A
Procalcitonin	Same day	N/A	N/A
25 OH Vitamin D	Up to 3 days	N/A	N/A

Haematology Department			
Test	Turnaround Times		
	Routine (GP)	Routine (in-house)	Priority / Critical*
Full Blood Count (FBC)	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
Automated Differential White Cell	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
Blood Film Examination	72 hrs	72 hrs	*
Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)	24 hrs	24 hrs	2 hrs
Reticulocyte Count	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
Infectious Mononucleosis Screen (I.M.)	24 hrs	24 hrs	n/a
Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Test	n/a	4 hrs	2 hrs
Blood Smear (thick & thin films) for Malaria / Parasites	n/a	6 hrs	6 hrs
Sickle Cell Screen	n/a	4 hrs	2 hrs
Prothrombin time (PT)/INR	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
Activated Partial Thromboplastin time (APTT) / APTT Ratio	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
Coagulation Screen (PT and APTT)	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
D-Dimers	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
Fibrinogen	Same Day	6 hrs	1 hr
Mixing Studies	n/a	6 hrs	1 hr

Blood Transfusion Department		
Test Name	Short name	Turnaround Time
Blood Group/Antibody screen or Cross match	G/S or X/M	8 hrs
<b>URGENT</b> Crossmatch	X/M	15mins uncrossmatched group specific 45 mins crossmatched group specific
Confirm Blood Group		8 hrs
Direct Antiglobulin Test /Direct Coombs Test	DAT/DCT	8 hrs
Antibody Identification	Ab ID	24hrs or sent to IBTS
Request for Platelets/ Other products ordered from IBTS		Min 3 hrs
Transfusion Reaction Investigation	Tx Rxn	8 hrs
Auto Immune Haemolytic Anaemia (AIHA)	AIHA	24hrs or sent to IBTS (5 working days)
Weak D Genotyping		14 Days
Extended RBC Genotyping		Sent to IBTS
Molecular Investigation for other Blood Groups		

Histopathology Department		
Category	Example Sample types	Turnaround Time / routine working days
<b>P01:</b>	Small biopsies e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin Punch Biopsies</li> <li>• Needle Biopsies</li> <li>• Lung Biopsies</li> <li>• Vocal Cord bx's</li> <li>• Pipelle Biopsies</li> <li>• Prostate Needle Biopsies</li> </ul>	5-7
<b>P02:</b>	Endoscopy samples only	20-25
<b>P03:</b>	Cancer Resections including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI</li> <li>• Gynae</li> <li>• Thyroid</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	7-10
<b>P04:</b>	All Other samples including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skin Biopsies</li> <li>• Products of Conception</li> <li>• Currettings</li> <li>• Non-cancer Gynae resection</li> <li>• Non-cancer GI resection</li> <li>• Gallbladder</li> <li>• Appendix</li> </ul>	7-10
<b>P04</b>	Placenta	21
<b>Note:</b> Turnaround time for <b>URGENT</b> processing is <b>3-5 working days</b> after sample receipt but is dependent on the complexity of the case. A preliminary report is usually telephoned within <b>2 days</b> depending on the complexity of the case.		

**Microbiology Department**

Test Name	Turnaround Time / routine working days	Test Name	Turnaround Time / routine working days
<b>BLOOD CULTURES</b>	<p><b>Positive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Microscopy (Gram stain) within 2hrs of bottle flagging positive</li> <li>Interim culture report 24-48hrs after positivity</li> <li>Final culture report 48-72hrs after positivity</li> </ul> <p><b>Negative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 days (14 days if endocarditis suspected)</li> </ul>	<b>BONE ALLOGRAFT CULTURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final report:</b> 7 – 9 days.</li> <li><b>Interim Report:</b> released earlier if significant growth.</li> </ul>
<b>CANNULAE CULTURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final report:</b> 2-3 working days.</li> </ul>	<b>CAPD FLUID</b> (Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis fluid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gram stain &amp; cell count:</b> Same day (routine hrs)</li> <li><b>Final report:</b> 7-9 days</li> <li><b>Interim report:</b> Released earlier if significant growth</li> </ul>
<b>COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) PCR Testing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final Report:</b> &lt; 24hrs</li> </ul>	<b>CSF</b> (Cerebrospinal Fluid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Microscopy report:</b> &lt; 2hrs</li> <li><b>Final negative culture:</b> 48hrs</li> <li><b>Final positive culture:</b> On completion of ID &amp; susceptibility testing</li> </ul>
<b>CSF Viral/Bacterial PCR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Urgent</b> &lt; 3hrs</li> <li><b>Non Urgent</b> &lt; 24hrs</li> </ul>	<b>CPE Screening</b> (PCR Method)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Negative screens:</b> Final report 24 hrs</li> <li><b>Positive screens:</b> Final report 48-72 hrs</li> </ul>
<b>CPE Screening</b> (Culture Method)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Negative screens:</b> Final report within <b>24 hrs</b></li> <li><b>Positive screens:</b> Final report within <b>48-72 hrs</b></li> </ul>	<b>Ear Swab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final bacterial report:</b> 2-3 workingdays</li> <li><b>Interim report:</b> Released earlier if significant growth</li> <li>TAT may be longer if extended incubation or susceptibilities required</li> </ul>
<b>Eye Swab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final report:</b> 2-3 working days (longer if extended susceptibility testing)</li> <li><b>Interim report:</b> Released earlier if significant growth</li> </ul>	<b>Fungal Microscopy and Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Microscopy:</b> 48 hrs – 1 week</li> <li><b>Culture (final report):</b> Up to 28 days</li> <li><b>Positive results:</b> Telephoned to requesting source</li> </ul>
<b>Fluids</b>  (Joint, Synovial, Peritoneal, Ascitic, Pleural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cell count/Uric acid crystals:</b> &lt;24 hrs</li> <li><b>Final culture report:</b> 7-9 days (longer if extended incubation required)</li> <li><b>Interim report:</b> Released earlier if significant growth</li> </ul>	<b>Faeces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Enteric Pathogen PCR:</b> 1-2 working days (negs); longer if pos</li> <li><b>C. difficile:</b> 24 hrs</li> <li><b>Rotavirus/Adenovirus:</b> 1 working day (<i>not weekends/BH</i>)</li> <li><b>Norovirus:</b> 24 hrs</li> <li><b>Occult blood (FIT):</b> 1-2 working days (<i>not weekends/BH</i>)</li> <li><b>H. pylori antigen:</b> 1-2 working days (<i>not weekends/BH</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Genital Tract and Associated Specimens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>HVS / Endocervical / Penile swabs:</b> 2-3 working days</li> <li>TAT may vary depending on organism growth or further investigation required</li> </ul>	<b>Influenza and RSV Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Result:</b> &lt; 24 hrs</li> </ul>
<b>MRSA Screening (Culture Method)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Negative result:</b> 1-2 working days</li> <li><b>Positive result:</b> 2-3 working days</li> </ul>	<b>MRSA Screening (PCR Method)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Result:</b> &lt; 24 hrs</li> </ul>
<b>Mouth Swab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 working days</li> </ul>	<b>Pregnancy Test</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Urgent:</b> &lt;30 mins</li> <li><b>Routine:</b> Same day</li> </ul>
<b>Sinus Aspirate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final:</b> 7-9 days</li> <li><b>Interim</b> if significant growth</li> </ul>	<b>Sputum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 working days (longer if sensitivities required)</li> </ul>
<b>Throat Swab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final:</b> 2-3 working days</li> </ul>	<b>Tissue &amp; Biopsies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Microscopy:</b> &lt;24 hrs</li> <li><b>Final:</b> 7-9 days</li> <li><b>Interim</b> earlier if significant growth</li> <li>TAT maybe longer if extended incubation/susceptibilities required</li> </ul>
<b>Tuberculosis (TB) Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Microscopy</b> (TB stain) 24-48hrs</li> <li><b>Culture:</b> 6 weeks</li> </ul>	<b>Urine Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Negative:</b> 1-2 working days</li> <li><b>Positive:</b> 2-3 working days</li> </ul>
<b>Urinary Antigens</b> Strep.pneumoniae Legionella Pneumophila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hrs</li> </ul>	<b>VRE Screening</b> (PCR Method)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt;24 hrs</li> </ul>
<b>VRE Screening</b> (Culture Method)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Negative:</b> 24 hrs</li> <li><b>Positive:</b> 48-72 hrs</li> </ul>	<b>Wound Swab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final:</b> 7-9 days</li> <li><b>Interim</b> earlier if significant growth</li> </ul>