RELOCATION OF COLLECTION CENTRE

We are moving our main collection centre currently located at Kirksway Place. This will be closed from 1:00pm on Saturday 2nd August. Our new patient collection facility will be at 20 Gregory Street in Sandy Bay and will commence operations at 8:00am on Monday 4th August. We hope that this new site will be more convenient for your patients.

Our Hobart Pathology website will be updated to reflect the changes.

We are endeavouring to notify patients about the move, however we would be grateful if you could also mention this relocation to your patients when you refer them for testing.

We have distributed flyers to your practice detailing the new Collection Centre location and operating hours.

SIGNIFICANT PATHOLOGY REPORTS

We are able to provide a weekly report of results outside reference ranges for referrers.

The results included are generally numerical Haematology and Biochemistry test results which would flag as abnormal on the original report. The report does not include Histopathology, Cytology or Microbiology results. Tests for which reference ranges are not applicable or interpretation is complex are not included.

In order to maintain privacy, test results that have specifically been requested to be treated as Private & Confidential are not included in the weekly report.

The report is intended as a prompt only and could serve as a reminder for abnormalities follow-up. It should not replace thorough reading of individual reports.

If you wish to trial or receive our ‘Significant Pathology Report’ on a weekly basis, please contact Lynda Lonergan on 6237 1247.

HER-2 IN SITU HYBRIDISATION (ISH) TESTING

Hobart Pathology has recently obtained accreditation to perform HER-2 ISH testing for breast cancer. This testing was previously only performed on the mainland however, Hobart Pathology has now become Tasmania’s only laboratory accredited to undertake the test.

The HER-2 gene is located on chromosome 17 and encodes the HER-2 protein receptor. HER-2 is a growth factor receptor with amplification of this gene stimulating cancer cell growth. Amplification of the HER-2 gene occurs in approximately 10-20% of breast cancers and is associated with aggressive tumour behaviour.
Targeted therapies such as Herceptin and the recently PBS listed Lapatinib block the action of the HER-2 receptor and therefore act to inhibit cancer cell growth. Testing tumours via HER-2 ISH is required to identify the 10-20% of patients who would benefit from the use of targeted therapies.

At Hobart Pathology, Ventana Medical Systems INFORM HER-2 DNA probe is used to quantitatively detect amplification of the HER-2 gene via chromogenic silver in situ hybridisation (SISH) in formalin fixed, paraffin embedded human breast cancer tissue specimens. This follows staining on the Ventana Benchmark XT automated immunostainer and using light microscopy. The HER-2 status of an individual case is then determined by an accredited pathologist counting the number of HER-2 copies per tumour cell nucleus.

Any questions regarding HER-2 ISH testing at Hobart Pathology can be directed to the Supervising Pathologist, Dr Shaun Donovan on 6237 1260.

**CALLER IDENTIFICATION**

Treating practitioners and their staff may have noticed that we now ask for the name of the caller when we receive telephone calls for results.

This is being done in order for Hobart Pathology to comply with accreditation requirements. Our staff are now required to record the name of the caller, the date, time and test details for all telephoned results.

**FAECAL OCCULT BLOOD COLLECTION**

In order to avoid the inconvenience of having to provide additional samples, please advise your patients that each faecal sample for occult blood testing must be delivered to one of our collection centres on the day of each collection, i.e., they should not keep samples until all are collected. All samples should be labelled with the date and time of collection.

The HIC will rebate three faecal occult blood tests collected on separate days over a 28 day period.

For further information please refer to the patient information sheet, e.g. dietary requirements prior to collection.

This and other patient information sheets can be found on our website: www.hobartpath.com.au