Patient Information Leaflet  
March 2016

Laboratory virtual point of care HbA1c analysis for Paediatric Diabetes patients

Background
As you know, regular accurate measurement of HbA1c is important for monitoring diabetes control.

At Cork University Hospital (CUH) we measure HbA1c using the gold-standard method (see references below).
This preferential method is not available in all centres in Ireland.
Therefore these centres need to use an instrument which is available at the clinic (point of care system).
As the CUH Haematology Laboratory provides a more accurate result in a short time frame, we do not need a point of care system.

Service improvements

- Only one drop of blood is required for the tube.

What you need to do to process your HbA1c

- **Ideally**, samples should be posted to the Haematology Laboratory at CUH, 2 weeks prior to the Paediatric Diabetes Clinic date. Advance availability of the result allows preparation by the diabetes team for the clinic.

- If, however on the **rare occasion** you did not get to send in the sample in advance of the clinic, please notify staff on arrival at the clinic.
This means you will need to:
  - Check in at clinic
  - Request a “waiting sticker” from the nurse in clinic and place it on the HbA1c request form
  - Take the sample (one drop of blood) from your child and label the purple tube*
  - Double check bottle and form are fully completed and all details match
  - Take the sample and form to the Laboratory reception
  - Hand the sample directly to the Laboratory receptionist
  - Return to clinic (for weight, height check, and consultation)

  *Alternatively you can take sample in advance (within 24 hours) of the clinic appointment, bring it with you and follow the steps above

- The HbA1c result will be available at the consultation

*It is **vital** that all samples (**small purple topped tube**) are **labeled correctly** with
  - Correct patient sticker
    AND
  - The date and time of sampling

Incorrectly labeled samples cannot be processed.

Evaluation of service
We will constantly evaluate this quality improvement. We welcome any feedback.

References