



Canterbury Health Laboratories

Christchurch Hospital	Community	Canterbury Health Labs.
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Memorandum re transfer of TDM assays to Core Biochemistry:

From **13:00 h Tuesday 18 August** the following Therapeutic Drug assays will be transferred within Canterbury Health Laboratories from Toxicology (Dade Dimension analyser) to the Core Biochemistry Laboratory (Abbott Architect analyser):

- Carbamazepine
- Gentamicin
- Phenobarbitone
- Phenytoin
- Theophylline
- Tobramycin
- Valproate
- Vancomycin

This will enable assays to be undertaken on a 24 hour 7 day basis and provide results with significantly shorter turnaround times.

We have undertaken meticulous method comparisons and for most assays there are small and clinically insignificant differences, though with two exceptions:

For theophylline, the Architect gives up to 25% lower results compared with the Dade Dimension, though closer to the consensus mean (target value) on external surveys.

For vancomycin, the Architect gives up to 16% lower results within the therapeutic range compared with the Dade Dimension, though also closer to the consensus mean (target value) on external surveys.



We do not propose to make any adjustment for these differences, though will indicate the method related differences in a comment for an appropriate period following the change.

For technical and laboratory advice:

Lesney Stuart X80397
Chris Florkowski X89570

For advice on therapeutic drug monitoring:

Murray Barclay X80074
Evan Begg X81055
Paul Chin X88354

Proposed comments:

For vancomycin: "Method change from 16/08/09. Results may be up to 16% lower than the previous assay."

To run for two weeks from the time of changeover.

For theophylline: "Method change from 16/08/09. Results may be up to 25% lower than the previous assay."

To run for six months from the time of changeover.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.M. George', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Professor P.M. George
Clinical Director, Canterbury Health Laboratories

August 18, 2009.