

Blood Gas Sample Guidance

There are seven blood gas analysers located on the wards throughout Peterborough City Hospital. It is recommended that you are familiar with the location of your nearest blood gas analyser in the event that you need to analyse a sample.

The Clinical Chemistry department can process blood gas samples if they are prepared according to the following protocol.

Wherever possible, please attempt to contact the laboratory prior to sending a blood gas sample to ensure that the analyser is prepared and that a BMS can prioritise the workload to accommodate the analysis.

Please contact the laboratory if you are sending a blood gas sample by:

Phone **x 8455** or Bleep **1150**

Preparation of the Sample

- The sample **MUST** be manually labelled with a minimum of 3 points of patient identification (i.e. forename, surname, date of birth, district number).

NB: Addressograph or printed labels are not acceptable.

- The sample **MUST** be labelled with the date and time of collection.
- The sample needle **MUST** be removed and the sample **MUST** be capped.
- An Anglia Ice request form **MUST** be printed and sent with the sample.

Blood Gas Samples and Ice

Blood gas samples should ideally be kept on ice (or a cool pack) until the sample is ready to be analysed, but in certain ward areas this is not feasible.

Samples *without ice* must be delivered to the laboratory within **15 minutes**

Samples *with ice* must be delivered to the laboratory within **30 minutes**

Transport of the Sample

The sample must be delivered to the laboratory by *ward staff* or a *porter* by hand. The sample must **NOT** be sent to the laboratory via the pod system as pressure exerted on the sample during transit will compromise its quality.

*The Clinical Chemistry department is located on the **4th Floor, Core C.***

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS PROTOCOL WILL RESULT IN THE SAMPLE BEING UNSUITABLE FOR ASSAY AND DISCARDED UPON RECEIPT IN THE LABORATORY.

Authorised by:

Date: