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18/04/2023

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Changes to analyte stability for Voltage gated calcium channel assay and Radio-immunoassay update

As part of our quality management system procedures, we have been carrying out some additional analyte stability work on our radioimmunoprecipitation assays (RIA). From this work, we have decided to change the voltage gated calcium channel assay sample stability. This value has now decreased from 60 days to 21 days with immediate effect.

We have been freezing existing samples in our possession from users, to allow us to continue to safely testing these.

We recommend that all samples be sent to us either promptly post venepuncture - <3 days **OR** they should be stored at -20 prior to sending. We do not require samples to be couriered frozen, the sample can be placed into transport at room temperature and travel to us.

To provide standardisation, The Oxford Laboratory will be applying a 21-day timeline to the sample, once received by us – **we will not be calculating 21 days from the date that the sample was obtained from the patient.**

For completeness, below is a table of all the RIA assay stability times:

Test (by RIA)	Analyte Stability	Sample must reach lab within x days from sample collections
Acetylcholine receptor antibodies	60 days	14 days
Voltage-gated potassium channel antibodies	30 days	7 days
Voltage-gated calcium channel antibodies	21 days	7 days
MuSK antibodies	60 days	14 days

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on immunology.office@nhs.net

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Bateman

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