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Dear Colleagues,

Re: Oxford Neuroimmunology Turnaround Times (TaT) and future service developments.

Following our previous correspondence regarding the withdrawal of the Voltage-Gated Calcium Channel antibody radioimmunoassay from August 2025, we are writing to inform you of several additional developments within the Oxford Neuroimmunology Service.

Electronic Requesting – Introduction of LabREACH

While we continue to recommend that all users transition their referrals to an electronic requesting system such as NPEx, we also wish to inform you that we are exploring an alternative electronic requesting platform, *LabREACH*, supplied by Labgnostic.

This solution would utilise our existing Labgnostic infrastructure and interface directly with our Laboratory Information System (LIS). For end users, the interface would be web-based, free to access, and would not require integration with your local LIS. You would log in, enter patient details, and transmit requests to us, generating a manifest similar to current NPEx workflows. Once results are available, you would receive a notification prompting you to download and manually upload the results into your own LIS.

This system is currently undergoing the necessary approval processes, and we anticipate that it will become operational during the summer of 2026. Further detailed guidance will be provided to support users in adopting this platform once it is live.

Turnaround Times and Progress on Manual Referrals

Throughout 2025, we provided several updates regarding the turnaround times (TaT) for paper-based referrals. At its peak, the backlog of samples awaiting manual data entry into our LIS reached approximately seven weeks. With recent investment in additional staffing, we are pleased to report that this delay has been reduced to 2–3 weeks in recent months.

We do not anticipate further significant improvement until an electronic referral system is fully established and embedded, due to the inherent limitations of manual request processing.

Once samples are registered on our LIS, the turnaround times for most neuroimmunology investigations are now much closer to those published on our website. However, following the transition to our new LIS, a 'virtual track' workflow has been implemented. This means that samples with multiple test requests may experience internal prioritisation processes that lead to slight delays in some components of analysis.

Manual Requests for Voltage-Gated Calcium Channel Antibody Testing

Although we do not recommend continuing with manual paper requests for Voltage-Gated Calcium Channel antibody testing, we recognise that some NHS users may wish to explore this option. If so, the following conditions must be met:

1. **Samples must be frozen on receipt in your local pathology laboratory.**
2. **Requests must be submitted on a single manual form and accompanied by a single sample, with no additional Oxford Neuroimmunology test requests.**
3. **Samples must be sent to us in a frozen state.** Upon receipt, we will store the sample appropriately, and the collection date recorded in our LIS will be amended to reflect the date of receipt.

If these requirements are met, we will accept such requests on the understanding that a result cannot be guaranteed, although we will endeavour to complete all analyses wherever possible.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused by these ongoing service changes and disruptions, and we appreciate your continued patience and cooperation as we work to improve our systems and service delivery.

Yours faithfully
Ross Sadler

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