



醫院管理局
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY

From: Prof Rossa WK CHIU
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PWH

Tel / Fax No: 3505 2348 / 2636 5090

Date: 25 January 2018

To: All COSs, DOMs & Medical staff,
NTEC

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Enhanced Urine Free Metanephrines and Urine Catecholamines Service

Implementation Date: 31 January 2018

Special laboratory investigation for screening and diagnosis of pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma includes the measurement of urine free metanephrines and urine catecholamines.

To improve the diagnostic sensitivity and specificity of this service, the urine free metanephrines and catecholamines will be measured by the state-of-the-art liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry technique for samples received by our laboratory after 31 January 2018.

Measurement of urine free metanephrines is more sensitive and specific than urine catecholamines for the screening of pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma. **As such, urine free metanephrines test becomes the first line screening test for phaeochromocytoma and paraganglioma. One single 24-hour urine sample collected during symptomatic period is recommended.** This one single 24-hour urine sample in U1 plain bottle can also be used for urine aldosterone, free cortisol and total protein excretions as well as creatinine clearance analyses, which serves as a one-stop service to workup for hypertensive adult patients. The test will be requestable via Generic Clinical Request System (GCRS). Locally-derived reference intervals will be provided. **Collection of three consecutive 24-hour urine is unnecessary and is generally NOT recommended.**

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Please note the following new arrangements with effect from 31 January 2018.

1. Specimen requirement for urine free metanephrines: 24-hour urine collection in U1 plain bottle
2. Test requesting procedure: New GCRS request as “Free metanephrines, 24-hour urine”

Urine catecholamines analysis will be reserved only for investigation of paediatric patients and other special adult cases.

If there is any enquiry on the above new diagnostic service, please contact our Duty Biochemist at 3505 2685 / 3505 2331, or page through PWH Operator at 3505 2211.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

Prof Rossa WK CHIU



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