



PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL

威爾斯親王醫院

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From: Prof LO Yuk Ming Dennis To: All COSs & DMs of Pathology in HA  
Hon. Chief-of-Service  
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Date: 24 March 2015 Ms Karen LAW, DM, PWH(CP)

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**Central Referring Laboratory for  
Serum Insulin-like Growth Factor (IGF-1) Testing Service**

Since the worldwide supply disruption of serum Insulin-like Growth Factor (IGF-1) immunoassay test kits in November 2012, Hospital Authority (HA) has outsourced the IGF-1 testing service to Quest Diagnostics, USA where IGF-1 analysis is performed using mass-spectrometric method; with PathLab Medical Laboratories Ltd. (PathLab) provides the sample transportation logistics service.

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, Department of Chemical Pathology, Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) will serve as the central referring laboratory for IGF-1 testing services for all HA laboratories.

Clotted blood samples requesting for IGF-1 analysis are recommended by Quest Diagnostics to be collected in Becton Dickinson plain bottles to avoid analytical interference. They shall be aliquoted by the requesting HA laboratories. At least **two aliquots of 0.5 mL frozen serum** in plastic screw-cap vials shall be transported to PWH Chemical Pathology Laboratory. Requesting laboratories are recommended to keep and store a portion of serum in their own laboratories as backup. Aliquoted frozen serum will be picked up in PWH Chemical Pathology Laboratory by PathLab for sending samples overseas. Test reports (in Adobe Acrobat format) shall be uploaded to the Electronic Patient Records (ePR) system for clinicians' review once the IGF-1 results are available. HA laboratories and clinical departments will not be charged for the above-mentioned IGF-1 testing service arrangement in PWH.

If there is any enquiry on the above new arrangements, please contact our Department Manager Ms. Karen Law at 2632-2325.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

Prof LO Yuk Ming Dennis