

DIVISION OF WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTATION  
BRISTOL ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN  
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Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Chimerism samples**

New national guidelines on assessment of chimerism have just been published in the August 2014 edition of the British Journal of Haematology\*. These state that chimerism samples need to be tested **no later than 72 hours after they have been taken**, in order for the lineage specific results to be accurate.

We are therefore asking you to kindly ensure that all chimerism samples (**6-10 ml blood in 2-3 EDTA tubes**) are sent directly to the Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I) Lab in Bristol, at the following address:

Dr Leigh Keen  
H and I Lab  
500 North Bristol Park  
Filton  
Bristol  
BS34 7QH

The samples should be sent with an H & I **3C** form, available on the following link:

[http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/pdf/FRM1010\\_2.pdf](http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/pdf/FRM1010_2.pdf)

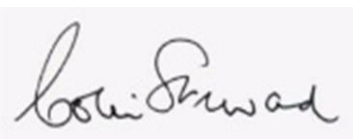
The form and sample tube should be completed with **THREE** points of patient identification and the **DATE** and **TIME** of the collection. The form should also have the Chimerism / Lineage Specific boxes ticked and should include who you would like the results sent to. Please see enclosed example form for more clarification.

The 72 hour testing window means that samples should ideally be taken and sent, via first class post, on Monday – Wednesday. If sending them on a Thursday is unavoidable, please send them via next day delivery service and Friday samples should be taken first thing in the morning and sent first class so that they can be processed on Monday morning.

We hope that these small improvements to the chimerism testing guidelines will ensure the most accurate and timely results possible and thank you for in advance for your co-operation in this matter. Please be aware that samples that do not satisfy these criteria for labelling or transit time to the sample will be rejected.

Please do not hesitate to contact Charlotte Nicol, BMT CNS, if you require any more information or advice.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Colin Steward

\* <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjh.13073/abstract>