East Lancashire Hospitals NHS

NHS Trust

Clinical Laboratory Medicine

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19th July 2017

Dear all,

Requests for Laboratory Allergy Testing from Primary Care

From **Monday 4th September 2017**, we will be changing the requesting procedures on ICE for allergy tests in Primary Care. This is to ensure targeted testing of suspected allergens rather than indiscriminate requesting of all available specific IgE tests.

For **adults**, ICE will limit requesting to one group of tests or test only listed in bold in the tables below:

Available to request on ICE	Specific IgE tests performed
Food allergy screen (including peanut)	Mixed food (including egg white, milk, cod, wheat, peanut, soya) *If the mixed food panel is positive, individual specific IgE tests to each food will be performed.*
Insect venom anaphylaxis– Bee and Wasp	Bee and Wasp
Peanut allergy	Peanut
Seasonal rhinitis	Timothy grass, mixed tree pollen
Asthma, all year round	House dust mite, cat, dog, moulds

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Other food allergy tests

Specific IgE tests available to request on ICE
Milk
Egg
Wheat
Cod
Soya

Other allergy tests

Specific IgE tests available to request on ICE
Timothy grass pollen
Mixed tree pollen
House dust mite
Cat
Dog
Mixed mould
Latex

For **children (<18 years)**, it will still be possible to request more than one group of allergy tests on ICE. However, testing should still be targeted to suspected allergens. In addition to the tests listed above, a nut allergy panel consisting of six specific IgE tests (almond, brazil nut, cashew nut, hazelnut, peanut and walnut) is also available to request for paediatric patients.

Please see examples of allergy test requesting on ICE in Appendix 1.

Please see the accompanying clinical information sheet (Allergy testing and allergy referral for adults) and food diary

To discuss this or any aspect of allergy testing further, please don't hesitate to contact the Clinical Biochemists.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Brownbill   Jane Oakey

Clinical Director for Clinical Laboratory Medicine &   Consultant Clinical Biochemist
Consultant Clinical Biochemist

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Appendix 1- Examples

1. Adult

This screenshot below shows the allergy tests available to select on ICE in adults:

After selecting one group of tests e.g. 'Seasonal rhinitis –allergy screen', the other tests can no longer be requested:

2. Child

This screenshot below shows the allergy tests available to select on ICE in children:

Note that the individual specific IgE tests are available by clicking 'Other food allergy tests' or 'Other allergy tests'

After selecting one group of tests e.g. 'Seasonal rhinitis –allergy screen', other allergy tests can also be requested (except timothy grass pollen and mixed tree pollen which are included in the seasonal rhinitis screen):