

## TDL Laboratory Guide 2024

# New, changes and updates

We have appreciated feedback confirming the preference for the smaller version of the TDL Laboratory Guide, and this year's issue reverts to an A5 version with updated tabs, directing users to specialties with the guide.

Every year we review requesting patterns, test frequency, new best practice and methods, and include changes where relevant, or possible, into the test menu. We also try to incorporate the changes that have originated from feedback received over the past year. This helps us to keep profiles and test menus as up-to-date and relevant as possible.

Details for more than 1500 tests are listed in sections, by speciality, and through the A-Z listing (pages 181- 216) in the last section of the guide. Profiles are laid out by discipline and listed in alphabetical order.

For advice or information about any of the tests that are listed – and particularly if you cannot find the test you are looking for, please do contact the laboratory on **020 7307 7373**. If you need information and advice about Genetic Tests please call **020 7307 7409**.



Updated Terms and Conditions of Business from 1st January 2024 are given on page 220. Holding a signed copy of these Terms has become important for CQC and other organisations who carry out inspections and audits. Two copies of Standard Terms and Conditions are enclosed within the Pathology Pack – one to sign and file, and one to return to [terms@tdlpathology.com](mailto:terms@tdlpathology.com)

Published prices, updates and changes that are included in the Laboratory Guide are effective from 1st January 2024.

### Included in your Pathology Pack 2024

- TDL Laboratory Guide 2024
- TDL New, Changes and Updates 2024
- TDL Standard Terms and Conditions 2024
- TDL Calendar 2024
- TDL NIPT Information
- Re-order form for Laboratory Guides and Calendars

# Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT)



TDL changed its NIPT testing from Harmony to the Illumina VeriSeq NIPT Solution v2 in September 2023. The Illumina VeriSeq NIPT Solution v2 offers analysis of the same conditions as Harmony, including options for fetal sex and sex chromosome aneuploidies. The Illumina VeriSeq NIPT is used worldwide, and includes the English, Welsh and Scottish National Screening Programmes as well as other European screening programmes. TDL Genetics is UKAS accredited for this NIPT service and is one of the three nominated NHS English laboratories approved for the National Fetal Aneuploidy Screening Programme.

- Only one blood tube is required – sufficient to enable a repeat test if necessary
- Lower failure rate – less than 2%
- IVF donor status is no longer required
- Faster turnaround times of 2–4 working days
- Clinical advice and support from Consultant Clinical Geneticists
- TDL Genetics is the largest NIPT provider in the UK



TDL Genetics does not offer whole genome NIPT. The International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis does not currently recommend using NIPT to look at the whole genome (see <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pd.6357#:~:text=NIPT%20is%20the%20most%20accurate,FPR%20occur%20with%20NIPT>).

Please direct any queries related to this change of test to [NIPT@tdlpathology.com](mailto:NIPT@tdlpathology.com).

## Reporting of HbA1c (GHB) results



From 1st November 2023, HbA1c results have been reported using mmol/mol as the units of measurement, adhering to NICE guidelines and UKAS requirements. The results that were provided as a percentage will no longer be reported. A conversion to a percentage can be found here:

<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/guide-to-diabetes/managing-your-diabetes/hba1c>

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## Covid testing



- The Roche Total Antibody test (TCOV) has now been discontinued.
- The Roche Spike Antibody test (SCOV) is still available (antibody levels to vaccine or virus).

COVID-19 by PCR (NCOV) is run daily (8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm at weekends), but is no longer processed as standard through the night.

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## Discontinued tests



Laboratory tests may be discontinued at short notice for a variety of reasons such as changes with reagent manufacturers, analyser development, supply chain, suspension or regulatory review.

Depending on the reason, tests may be discontinued for the short or long term or even permanently, and sometimes with very little notice. Whilst every effort is made to look for a comparable alternative service this is not always possible.

Where an alternative is available, the turnaround times, normal values and methodology may be different. When there is no suitable alternative, the laboratory will notify as it may not be possible to store samples for the long term and it may be necessary to discard them or return them to the referrer.

Please visit the TDL website for more information: [www.tdlpathology.com/tests/discontinued-tests/](http://www.tdlpathology.com/tests/discontinued-tests/)

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## Request forms



The range of standard TDL and TDL Genetic Request forms that were previously displayed in the last section of the Laboratory Guide are now available on the TDL website in PDF format, please visit [www.tdlpathology.com/tests/request-forms/](http://www.tdlpathology.com/tests/request-forms/)

Data entry and invoicing processes are very dependent on the detail given with the request form that accompanies each request. For patients who are claiming from their private medical insurer, special attention needs to be given to providing the **name of the insurer** together with the **patient's Membership number, pre-authorisation details** (if known) and their **home address**.

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## Link directly with the laboratory



Many clinics with practice management systems may not appreciate that their system will allow the functionality to link requests when ordering tests. Approved electronic requests that properly link are more accurate, faster and more efficient, and most importantly significantly reduce manual entry errors. Please check to find out whether it is possible to link through your own practice management system or via eViewPlus. To see if your own platform will link, in the first instance contact your system provider.

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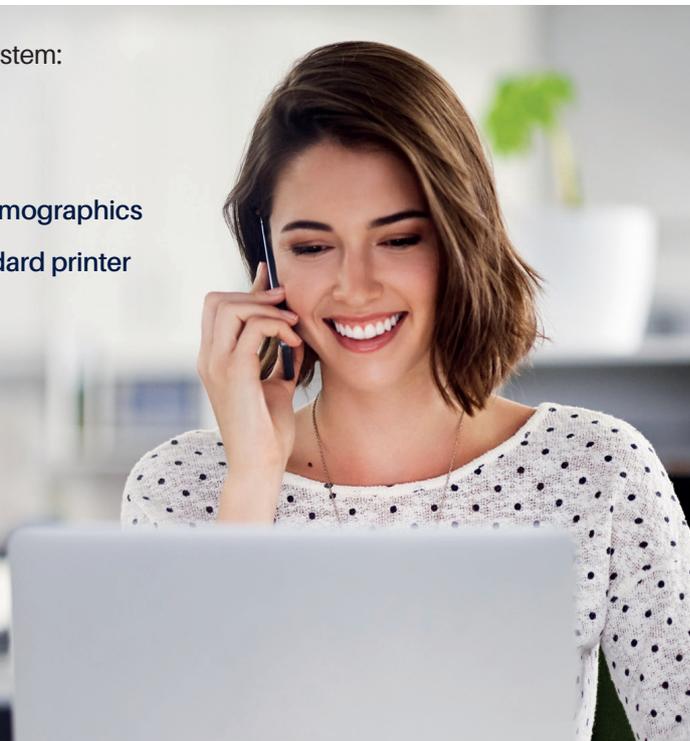
# Upgrade to TDL eViewPlus



TDL eViewPlus allows users to create request forms without the need for set-up and cost of a linked practice management system. More importantly, eViewPlus significantly improves the speed and accuracy of data entry for the laboratory as the request forms are QR coded for scanned input compared to manual entry from paper forms.

eViewPlus is a secure login and password protected system:

- Allows access to results in real time
- Provides cumulative results
- Allows for 100% accuracy for test codes/ patient demographics
- Minimal office equipment required - use your standard printer
- Allows printing of results
- Allows forwarding of results in PDF format to patients, clinicians, clinics, etc
- Creates a QR coded request form
- Clear flagging of essential information fields
- Accepts all test codes - single tests, TDL and personal profiles
- Allows entry for clinical details
- No charge for this service



To be set up or for information about TDL eViewPlus contact [eviewplus@tdlpathology.com](mailto:eviewplus@tdlpathology.com)

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## Sample labelling



Please **ALWAYS** label all swabs, non-gynae cytology and fine needle aspirates with the **Site** from where the sample was taken, as well as patient full name, date of birth and any other relevant identifiers. **This is very important** to ensure that the most appropriate culture media is used to target the most likely pathogens.

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## Histopathology update



TDL's Histopathology service supports a full range of pathology sub-specialities and is now being undertaken as an in-house service.

To prevent tissue degeneration, it is advisable to collect histopathology samples in sample pot(s) containing preservative, usually formalin, to at least ten times the volume of the tissue sample (available from TDL Supplies). Use of preservative will ensure that the tissue architecture and microscopic appearances of specimens are preserved. Patient demographics, together with clinical and sample details need to be provided with the specimens. Testicular investigations for reproductive investigations are best submitted fixed in Bouins solution. Requests for products of conception require the patient's signed consent/instruction regarding sensitive disposal when the histopathology is complete.

Please contact **020 7307 7380** or **020 7307 7373** for information or any query relating to histopathology.

# TDL Postal Pathology



[www.tdlpathology.com/services/tdl-postal-pathology/](http://www.tdlpathology.com/services/tdl-postal-pathology/)

Postal pathology services should be considered by all practices in the UK for whom courier collections cannot geographically be offered. Royal Mail provides a rapid delivery service to the laboratory.

ALL pathology postal packs provided by TDL are made up with Tracked 24 returns. This provides a particularly suitable method of transport for any healthcare organisation.

Postal pathology with Tracked 24 returns provides:

- Simple and convenient sample handling throughout the UK for most tests using all/any Royal Mail post boxes. Do not post samples that must be received on the same day of sample collection (e.g. TBQ4, D-Dimers, Coagulation assays, etc) when appropriate consideration must be given to time sensitive tests.
- Postal pathology provides scope for large and small numbers of samples
- Next morning delivery
- Allows patients and practices to track samples through the Royal Mail system
- There is a charge of £3.36 for each Royal Mail Tracked 24 pack. This charge is itemised in monthly invoices to the practice or patient, as requested.

## Ziwig Endotest<sup>®</sup>



A decision to pause the service for Endotest<sup>®</sup> was made in November following extended delays with reporting times for this referred service. There is every intention to reinstate a testing service for endometriosis. Samples received in the laboratory will not be stored or saved. As soon as details are available, notification of updated details will be issued.

## ALEX<sup>2</sup> Allergy Panel



ALEX<sup>2</sup> Allergy Explorer rapidly tests for up to 300 allergens simultaneously and providing a comprehensive analysis, from a **very small sample volume**. This small volume samples makes it particularly suitable for postal samples. The panel of allergens includes pollen, mites, cat and dog fur, insect venoms, moulds and yeasts, food and latex. **A Total IgE is included.**

The process of testing allows for different allergenic components to be incorporated in the panel. Testing sensitivity to component allergenic determinates of food or other proteins which give a better indication of risk of anaphylaxis and how best to manage the patient with their allergic condition.

Visit [www.tdlpathology.com/tests/profiles/alex2-allergy-test/](http://www.tdlpathology.com/tests/profiles/alex2-allergy-test/) to view a sample report.

### Individual allergens

TEST	CODE	SAMPLE	TAT
Allergy - Individual Allergens	ALLE	B	2 days
Allergy - 5 x Single Individual Allergens	5AL	B	2 days
Allergy - 10 x Single Individual Allergens	10AL	B	2 days

# Digestive diagnostics



There has been a significant increase in the frequency and range of investigations being undertaken for gastrointestinal conditions. The most commonly investigated digestive disorders include:

- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease
- Gallstones
- Coeliac Disease/Gluten Intolerance
- Crohn's Disease
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Hemorrhoids
- Diverticulitis

TEST	CODE	TAT	DETAILS
QFIT single test	QFIT	1 day	
Calprotectin single test	CALP	5 days	
QFIT and Calprotectin	QCAL*	5 days	*Combined sample collection device using the QFIT sample collection kit for the two tests. Results are reported individually.
Elastase	ELAS	4-5 days	
<i>H. Pylori</i> Antigen	HBAG	2 days	
Enteric Organisms by PCR	EORD**	2 days	** Results are reported for individually for 28 viral, bacterial and parasitic pathogens.
Stool for m/c/s	PENT	from 2 days	

If requesting more than one stool test please use multiple pots as this speeds up the processing and reporting. **Do not overfill, but please ensure that each stool pot is half filled.**

# Self-collection samples



Self-collection is utilised extensively across disciplines such as:

- Sexual health screening
- Wellness services
- Thyroid, cardiovascular and diabetic conditions
- Hospital pre-operative screening
- IVF and Fertility

In each scenario, sample self-collection has enabled patients to collect samples at home, at a convenient time. The Royal Mail Tracked 24 postal return systems for pathology across the UK have developed to facilitate fast and effective delivery of samples to the laboratory.

As part of the ongoing development of the TDL self-collection service the kit manufacture for the TDL Self-Collect range ensure that TDL is aligned to the developing regulatory requirements around ISO:13485 kit manufacture and UKCA and CE marking across the UK and EU. TDL kits are made up according to medical device manufacture (ISO13485:2016). All tests listed for self-collection have undergone clinical sign off for usability, stability and comparative venous/capillary review. For tests that have undergone verification for self-collection, the entry in the Laboratory Guide will show the sample type for both venous and microtainers (TDL TINY).

Orders for TDL TINIES™ (packs with instructions) can be provided to practices to be sent out individually to patients, or supplied directly to doctors or healthcare companies.



This is not a patient self-referral service and it is not point of care testing. All testing is undertaken in the laboratory and results are always returned directly to the healthcare company or doctor, not to the patient. The range includes kits for self-collected blood samples with other self-collected specimen types (urine, stool, swabs). A completed request form must accompany each returned, labelled, sample.

Recommendation: most people are not experienced with collecting their own blood. Whilst it is possible to collect blood drops for two or three microtainers, the most successful outcomes are collected by patients who read the instructions that are given in each pack, and who collect enough sample for one microtainer. Instructions for sample collection are enclosed in each pack.

For information and packs, please contact [UKCAkits@tdlpathology.com](mailto:UKCAkits@tdlpathology.com).

## Self-collection HPV samples



The Self-collection HPV Test provides women with the option to self-collect a vaginal specimen for HPV testing. There is well documented high level of concordance between the HPV DNA results from self-collected and clinician-collected specimens.

A **NEGATIVE HPV result** means that these high-risk subtypes HPV have not been detected and the patient is at extremely low risk of developing high-grade cervical disease/CIN2+ before their next routine visit.

A **POSITIVE HPV result** might indicate an increased risk of developing CIN/cervical cancer, and the report from the laboratory will provide a clear recommendation for follow-up/colposcopy.

Self-collection of specimens for HPV testing is not intended to replace existing patient management pathways but allows for:

- Those who wish to test following a change of sexual partner
- Option for identifying individual high risk DNA subtypes
- Personal preference to self-collect vaginal samples
- An acceptable option for women who avoid having regular cervical smears
- Self-collection for HPV increases acceptability and coverage rate of cervical cancer prevention

**HPV Self-Collected HPV RNA**  
with collective reporting of high risk subtypes (16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 66, 68)

**HPV Self-Collected HPV DNA**  
with individual reporting of high risk subtypes (16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 66, 68)

Results will always be sent directly to the requesting clinician, clinic or healthcare organisation.

For information and packs, please contact [UKCAkits@tdlpathology.com](mailto:UKCAkits@tdlpathology.com)

# Service email addresses



<a href="mailto:Addons@tdlpathology.com">Addons@tdlpathology.com</a>	Request <b>additional tests</b> for a sample already in the laboratory
<a href="mailto:Andrology@tdlpathology.com">Andrology@tdlpathology.com</a>	Arrange an <b>appointment for semen analysis</b> (or call <b>020 7025 7940</b> )
<a href="mailto:Couriers@tdlpathology.com">Couriers@tdlpathology.com</a>	Contact couriers as an alternative to <b>online booking</b>
<a href="mailto:UKCAkits@tdlpathology.com">UKCAkits@tdlpathology.com</a>	Information for <b>self-collection kits/service</b>
<a href="mailto:printcopy@tdlpathology.com">printcopy@tdlpathology.com</a>	To request for printed copy of <b>results</b>
<a href="mailto:eviewplus@tdlpathology.com">eviewplus@tdlpathology.com</a>	To arrange a secure login/password for <b>results</b> look-up
<a href="mailto:finance@tdlpathology.com">finance@tdlpathology.com</a>	Contact credit control for <b>invoice related queries</b>
<a href="mailto:Homevisits@tdlpathology.com">Homevisits@tdlpathology.com</a>	<b>Arrange a home visit</b> for your London based patients
<a href="mailto:logo@tdlpathology.com">logo@tdlpathology.com</a>	Include your <b>logo</b> (GIF format) for emailed results
<a href="mailto:patientreception@tdlpathology.com">patientreception@tdlpathology.com</a>	Email ahead for <b>special arrangements</b> for your patients
<a href="mailto:phlebotomy@tdlpathology.com">phlebotomy@tdlpathology.com</a>	Email for <b>special arrangements</b> for patients when needed
<a href="mailto:Supplies@tdlpathology.com">Supplies@tdlpathology.com</a>	<b>Order pathology supplies/postal packs</b> for TDL samples
<a href="mailto:tdl@tdlpathology.com">tdl@tdlpathology.com</a>	<b>General enquiries</b>

The TDL Laboratory Guide 2024 is designed to give you an easy to use reference, for the most regularly requested tests and profiles. If you need help or advice in finding information about tests or services, please contact the laboratory on **020 7307 7373** or email [tdl@tdlpathology.com](mailto:tdl@tdlpathology.com). We will continue to develop clinically relevant diagnostic services and our aim is to offer commitment to customer service, strong working relationships and help and support to doctors and their practises.