



Department of Reference Biochemistry  
King's College Hospital  
Denmark Hill  
London SE5 9RS  
[customerservices@viapath.org](mailto:customerservices@viapath.org)

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to inform you of a change to the **plasma metanephrines** service at Viapath, King's College Hospital.

Regrettably, the mass spectrometer we previously used to perform plasma metanephrine testing is no longer able to deliver the service. Please note, urine metanephrine and urine 5-HIAA testing at Viapath is unaffected by this issue.

We have an approved business case to replace the affected mass spectrometer and are awaiting delivery of the instrument. Following installation, method evaluation will be undertaken; therefore, in the interim we will be forwarding all plasma metanephrines samples received to **Freeman Hospital in Newcastle**, which is UKAS accredited for this test. Expected result turnaround time from this referral laboratory is approximately 5-10 working days.

Viapath / Synlab will cover the additional cost of plasma metanephrine referrals. We apologise profusely for this disruption to your service, but believe we have put in place contingencies to prioritise patients for this clinically important test.

We will provide further updates regarding the evaluation of our new mass spectrometer and the resumption of plasma metanephrine testing in house, as applicable. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.



Yours faithfully,

Dr Royce Vincent  
Consultant Chemical Pathologist  
Department of Clinical Biochemistry  
King's College Hospital  
[Royce.vincent@nhs.net](mailto:Royce.vincent@nhs.net)

Dr David Taylor  
Consultant Clinical Scientist  
Department of Clinical Biochemistry  
King's College Hospital  
[davidtaylor8@nhs.net](mailto:davidtaylor8@nhs.net)

Dr Colin Stone  
Service Delivery Manager  
Department of Clinical Biochemistry  
King's College Hospital  
[colin.stone@nhs.net](mailto:colin.stone@nhs.net)

Dr Hakim Zouita  
Operations Lead  
Department of Clinical Biochemistry  
King's College Hospital  
[hakim.zouita@nhs.net](mailto:hakim.zouita@nhs.net)