

Test Result Sequence “Down the Page” for common Chemical Pathology tests

Draft Proposal following harmonisation meeting 19/5/22

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Summary

Harmonisation of the layout of pathology reports is recommended as a way of facilitating report reading with the aim of minimising reading errors, and therefore possible patient management errors, and minimise time taken to read the report.

One aspect not yet covered in PITUS reports is the sequence of tests down the page in columnar reporting.

The following “down the page” sequences for tests within the stated groups are recommended by the AACB harmonisation Committee (see additional explanatory notes below):

Urea, Electrolytes, Creatinine (UEC)

Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, Bicarbonate, (anion gap), Urea, Creatinine, eGFR.

Liver Function Tests (LFT)

Total Protein, Albumin, (globulins), Bilirubin (conjugated bilirubin or other bilirubin fractions), ALT, AST, ALP, GGT

Calcium, Magnesium Phosphate (CMP)

Calcium, (Calcium adjusted for albumin), Magnesium, Phosphate

Iron Studies

Ferritin, Iron, Transferrin, Transferrin saturation

Thyroid Function Tests (TFT)

TSH, Free T4, Free T3

Lipid Studies

Cholesterol, Triglycerides, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, Non-HDL-Cholesterol, Cholesterol/HDL ratio

Additional general comments.

For laboratories which do not include all the components of a group in a report, the missing test result is omitted and the sequence of the remaining tests is maintained.

Tests in brackets are those which are commonly not included with all requests, but if reported, should be included at the indicated location.

The sequence of test groups (as shown in bold above) is not addressed in this recommendation.

This proposal does not recommend that the tests in each group should always be performed together, only that if any tests within each group are co-requested, they are reported in one group.

The full report is available in [Supporting Documents](#)