HAEMOGLOBINOPATHIES (NEONATAL): TESTING FOR OTHER

Keywords: Haemoglobinopathy, neonatal blood screening, haemoglobin studies

AIM

● The appropriate collection of a cord blood sample for screening for other significant haemoglobinopathies.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

KEMH is in the process of implementing an antenatal screening program for haemaglobinopathies to identify carriers of haemoglobin disorders in order to assess the risk of a couple having a severely affected child, and to provide information on the options available to manage their risk. For further information refer to Clinical Guideline, O&M, Antenatal Care: Haemoglobinopathy Screening and Referral.

If the fetus is determined to be at risk of a significant haemoglobinopathy e.g. Beta thalassaemia major or Haemoglobin H disease, there may be a ‘Haemoglobinopathy Screen’ sticker (pink border) on the Obstetric Special Instruction sheet (MR 004) along with a neonatal management plan

PROCEDURE

1. If a sample is required for haemoglobinopathy testing, collect an extra cord EDTA sample (minimum sample required is 0.5mL). NB: the cord EDTA sample sent to Blood Bank cannot be used for haemoglobinopathy testing.

2. If no cord sample is available collect a peripheral blood sample (capillary blood collection – heel stab). See Clinical Guideline, O&M, Neonatal Care: Capillary Blood Collection

3. Label the sample with the neonates details.

4. Document in the maternal notes and neonatal history chart (MR 410) that a sample for haemoglobinopathy testing has been collected.

5. Use the CPOE ‘down-time’ Pathology request form (yellow) with the “Neonatal Haemoglobinopathy Screening” sticker and tick the “Exclude other significant Haemoglobinopathy” box.

6. The form must be completed by the paediatric team. Specify the maternal and paternal globin gene abnormalities (genotype) if this information is available. This is to assist in directing appropriate laboratory testing.

7. Send the specimen to specimen collection in pathology.

8. If the haemoglobin studies results indicate a significant haemoglobinopathy, Pathwest Laboratory Medicine will notify the Princess Margaret Hospital Haematology department and they will make the necessary arrangements to review the neonate. This notification will be indicated on the haemoglobin studies report.
REFERENCES / STANDARDS

National Standards – 1- Care provided by the clinical workforce is guided by current best practice
Legislation - Nil
Other related documents – KEMH Clinical Guidelines, Obstetrics & Midwifery:
  ● Antenatal Care: Haemoglobinopathy Screening and Referral
  ● Neonatal Care: Capillary Blood Collection

RESPONSIBILITY

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