

Audit Template

Audit Title: Thames Audit Group regional audit on fluids	
Lead Auditor: Danni Fan	Audit date(s): Jan 2022
Please indicate if Local / Regional / National Audit Please indicate which hospital & location or region Thames Audit Group; Southern region	Report Author: Name: Danni Fan Email: dannifan@nhs.net
Aims of the Audit: To audit the service and advice that laboratories in the region offer for the investigation of fluids.	
<p>Audit Method and Outcome(s): The questionnaire was prepared by the lead auditor after review of relevant guidelines and approved by the audit committee. It was circulated to members of the Thames Audit Group and the southern region of the Association of Laboratory Medicine. 14 responses were received.</p> <p>Despite having a limited number of testing sites, the survey results reveal considerable variation in the pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical practices being used for these tests.</p> <p>There is a need for reaching an agreement of best practices among the TAG laboratories. The audit results may help individual laboratories determine how their processes differ from their peers and how they can adjust processes to align with the current best laboratory practices for fluid testing.</p>	
<p>Audit Recommendations / Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All laboratories should consider introducing trust guidelines for requesting biochemistry tests on fluids to avoid inappropriate requests. All laboratories should liaise with the clinical team and ensure trust clinical guidelines and clinical practice are in line with the laboratory's guidelines. • All laboratories should have protocols in place for both clinical and laboratory staff indicating sample requirement and handling procedures. • Available fluid tests should be reviewed. The ones which are obsolete or not routinely available within clinical biochemistry should be removed from PAS and from LIMS, so that they are not requestable to avoid confusion to the service user and laboratory staff. • Laboratories should ensure that appropriate internal quality control (IQC) and external quality assessment (EQA) procedures are in place. • Laboratories should verify their fluid tests. Otherwise, test results must be reported with a comment stating test not verified and interpret with caution. 	

- Laboratories should be aware of their test's susceptibility to interference.

For instance:

- For xanthochromia testing, strong absorbance of certain contrast dyes or antibiotics in the UV range can mask the ability to detect oxyhaemoglobin and bilirubin, leading to false negatives. Laboratories should be able to identify these cases and discuss the results with the clinician.
- Fluid samples should be assessed for haemolysis either by visual inspection or HIL index. CSF protein should not be run if grossly haemolysed. Laboratories should consider using HIL indices for fluid testing based on manufacturer's guidelines or verification studies.
- Laboratories should use manufacturer-specific, gender-related reference ranges if available.
- Reporting the appearance of fluids pre and post centrifugation is not mandatory, since there are no systematic studies to support its utility.
- All laboratories should take actions to ensure fluid tests are only requested when clinically indicated and provide interpretation for the results wherever possible.
- All laboratories should align with the current best laboratory practices for fluid testing (a summary doc is attached in the section for audit documents).

Please indicate to whom and when audit presented &/or circulated&/or published:

Results were presented at the Thames Audit Group meeting held 12th January 2023. Standards to be circulated to members of the Thames Audit Group following the meeting.

Audit recommendations / standards ratified by ... and when:

Agreed by the attendees of the Thames Audit Group meeting held 12th January 2023

Date of audit report: 01.09.23

Audit documents for upload to <http://www.acb.org.uk/whatwedo/science/audit.aspx>

Please include as attachments with this Audit Summary form if authors and the organising committee would like information to be publicly accessible on the ACB website Audit section.



Questionnaire - TAG Fluids Audit TAG Fluid Audit Best practice in non
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