

**Audit Template**

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| **Audit Title: Serum Indices** | |
| **Lead Auditor: Christopher Parker** | **Audit date(s): 22nd October 2014** |
| Please indicate if **Local / Regional / National Audit**  Please indicate which hospital & location or region  **Regional: Thames Audit Group** | **Report Author:**  Name: Christopher Parker  Email:chrisparker1@nhs.net |
| **Aims of the Audit:**To examine the practise employed by different laboratories regarding samples that are compromised by haemolysis, lipaemia and icterus with a particular focus on lipaemia | |
| **Audit Method and Outcome(s):**  An audit questionnaire was written by Mr Edward Kearney and Mr Chris Parker. This was ratified by the Thames Audit Group (TAG) committee and sent to members of the TAG on 18th August 2014. Completed questionnaires were received by the lead auditor between 18th August and 26th September 2014. Replies were collated and analysed and the results presented at a meeting of the TAG on 22nd October 2014.  Standards were drafted based on the findings of the audit and discussed at the TAG meeting. Revised standards were discussed at the following TAG committee meeting and an amended version was ratified following this meeting (23rd March 2015) | |
| **Audit Recommendations / Standards:**  1.Standardised units should be used in the measurement of serum indices  • Haemolysis: g/L  • Icterus: Absorbance or µmol/L bilirubin  • Lipaemia: mg/dL intralipid  2.Serum indices should be measured in all samples for immunoassay  3.Dilution of lipaemic samples should be considered as an easy way of removing interference from lipaemia. This method should be evaluated before routine use  4.Triglycerides should be measured on relevant samples that are visibly lipaemic and/or have a high lipaemic index to potentially identify patients that could benefit from a specialist referral.  5.A database of interference should be established to enable laboratories to share experience of the effects of interference.  6.Triglyceride concentrations >20 mmol/L should be phoned to the requesting clinician  7.Laboratories should have standalone compromised sample policies. | |
| **Please indicate to whom and when audit presented &/or circulated&/or published:**  Audit findings and draft standards presented to TAG, 22nd October 2014 | |
| **Audit recommendations / standards ratified by … and when:**  Ratified by TAG after committee meeting 23rd March 2015 | |
| **Date of audit report:**  22nd October 2014 | |
| **Audit documents for upload to http://www.acb.org.uk/whatwedo/science/audit.aspx** | |