

To Whom It May Concern

Date 16th June 2020
Our Ref KO/LM

Enquiries to Karina O'Rourke
Direct Line 0131 275 6946
Email karina.o'rourke@nhs.net

Dear Sir / Madam

DIHYDROPYRIMIDINE DEHYDROGENASE (DPYD) TESTING

DPYD testing continues at present as a pilot study, all four Genetics Consortium Laboratories in Scotland are providing testing on a regional basis for cancer patients who are eligible for treatment with Fluoropyrimidine (FP) chemotherapy drugs (5-fluorouracil, capecitabine and the oral prodrug tegafur).

Although the pilot was originally for 6 months it has continued in recognition of the importance of DPYD testing during the current COVID-19 pandemic. DPYD testing has been classified as an 'urgent' testing service for patients, where genetic testing would inform clinical treatment, reducing the number of patients requiring bed days in hospital and ICU / ITU. The application of DPYD testing has added resilience in the response to COVID-19 by helping to maximise bed availability as well reducing risk of exposure to COVID-19 for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

At the present time recurrent funding has not been identified for continuation of the test nationally. Healthcare Improvement Scotland have been undertaking some work to demonstrate the economic case for this pharmacogenomics test. NSD commissioning colleagues are working with the consortium laboratories and clinical representatives have compiled a business case with a view to seeking to secure recurring funding on a national basis. Opportunities for funding options are currently being explored.

Kind regards,



Ms Karina O'Rourke
Programme Manager
National Specialist and Screening Directorate (NSD)
Procurement, Commissioning and Facilities



Chair Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Colin Sinclair

NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service