Additional Tests (Add-ons for Secondary Care patients)

Clinicians may request extra tests on a sample already in the department, but these can only be completed if the analytes are sufficiently stable.

Please note: Add-on tests are not routinely processed as urgent. The add-on test target turnaround time (TAT) is 4-6hrs. In the table below we provide recommended testing strategies for different patient/sample categories.

Add on Category	Examples	Testing strategy
Non-urgent follow up tests	B12, BNP, TFT etc	**Tests should be added to the next scheduled sample collection where possible**. If there are extenuating circumstances as to why this cannot be achieved e.g. patient discharged, morning cortisol requested, phone the Clinical Biochemistry laboratory Ext. **60846** to request the additional tests. The target turnaround time for these add on requests is 4-6 hours.
Urgent follow up tests	Plasma osmolality following low Sodium	Send a ***repeat*** fresh sample marked as URGENT. These requests will be prioritised. Phone the Clinical Biochemistry laboratory Ext. **60846** to request the additional test.
Urgent Time point critical tests	Admission Tn-T, Paracetamol, pre dose drug monitoring	Phone the Clinical Biochemistry laboratory Ext. **60846** to request the additional test. These requests will be prioritised. However a 90 minute turnaround time cannot be guaranteed and if the result is needed for immediate patient management, a fresh sample should be considered.
Tests that cannot be added on	Alcohol (ethanol) Ammonia B12 and Folate Bicarbonate CSF Protein, Glucose, Lactate, Xanthochromia Bilirubin – DBIL/TBIL Gentamicin Glucose hCG-β Lactate TPSA	**These are unstable Analytes – Add-on is NOT appropriate**

Requesting Process for Add-on tests:

Contact the clinical biochemistry laboratory on Ext. **60846** to arrange additional tests.

It is important to specify which sample you wish to have the additional tests requested on. This will help the laboratory staff to locate the original sample and ensures that the add-on request is performed on the correct sample.