



Out-of-Hours Urgent Services: Results and Critical Testing

Aotea Pathology aims to provide timely, quality laboratory services in the most efficient way possible. The laboratory operates until late afternoon Monday to Friday, late afternoon on Saturdays and early afternoon Sundays and most Public Holidays.

When Aotea Pathology is closed, the most effective way to process samples critical for patient management is to direct this work to Wellington Public Hospital (CCDHB Lab). This arrangement forms part of a sub-contract between the two laboratories. CCDHB Lab is staffed 24 hours a day, and uses many of the same methods as Aotea Pathology.

Access to out-of-hours laboratory services is via the Aotea Pathology phone number (381 5900). When the laboratory is closed, options are given for diversion to either Aotea Pathology results, or to testing services for critical samples.

- The option for results for work already completed at Aotea Pathology diverts to a staff member with remote access to these results.
- The option for analysis of critical samples diverts to the Scientist on duty at CCDHB Lab.

The tests available at CCDHB Lab as part of this service provision are:

Biochemistry	Haematology	Microbiology	Immunology
Electrolytes	Full Blood Count (CBC)	Blood Cultures	HIV "Source Needle Stick" only
Creatinine	INR/APTT/Fibrinogen		
Neonatal Bilirubin	D-Dimer		
Glucose	Malaria Screen		
Troponin-T	ESR (for Temporal Arteritis only)		
Calcium (Ca ⁺⁺ , PO ₄ ⁻ , Albumin)			
Magnesium			
HCG			
Amylase (pancreatic)			

Tests outside of this list are available only with the authorisation of an Aotea Pathology pathologist. The CCDHB Lab Scientist on duty will provide contact details where such authorisation is necessary.

For critical testing to proceed:

- The CCDHB Lab Scientist will ask for details of the tests required, and for contact details, including the fax/phone number for immediate reporting of results.
- The referrer will need to arrange for the samples to be taken, and for prompt delivery to CCDHB Lab reception (Level F, CSB Building at Wellington Hospital)

Once CCDHB Lab has confirmed that testing can proceed, then any further communication about the samples or results should be directed to CCDHB Lab (04 385 5938)

The contact On Call Scientist is available for any problems associated with this service. They can be contacted at Aotea Pathology during normal hours (04 381 5900), and on 027 2577 923 out-of-hours.