

Viapath Analytics, Biochemical Sciences  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor North Wing  
St Thomas' Hospital  
Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7EH

18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Delay to Metabolic Biochemistry results**

This letter is to inform you that the Inherited Metabolic Disease laboratory within the Viapath Analytics Biochemical Sciences Department at St Thomas' Hospital is currently experiencing significant staff shortages, primarily due to COVID-related absence. This is impacting upon our ability to report results within our stated turnaround times for urine organic acids, plasma/urine/CSF amino acids, urine cystine, bloodspot acylcarnitines and plasma very long chain fatty acids (VLCFA).

Our priority is to ensure that urgent samples are analysed and reported within a clinically acceptable time frame. If clinicians have samples from patients in whom a metabolic disorder is strongly suspected that they would like to be processed urgently, they should follow the usual procedure and discuss the case with the paediatric or adult metabolic clinical team at the Evelina London and St Thomas' Hospital respectively. We will prioritise urgent samples in discussion with, and with direction from, the metabolic clinical teams.

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Kind regards,



Dr Rachel Carling  
Consultant Clinical Scientist  
Clinical Lead, Biochemical Sciences, Viapath