Association for Clinical Genetic Science
Part of the British Society for Genetic Medicine

Genetic Laboratory Reporting Time Targets

All laboratories should endeavour to maintain adequate reporting times (see Table 1). However it is recognised that the changes to reporting time measurement from working days to calendar days may affect the ability of some laboratories to meet all the expected turnaround times immediately. Therefore it is recommended that the reporting times stated in Table 1 are implemented by April 2016.

All targets should be for 90% within the given reporting time target for any category.

All reporting times are given in calendar days.

The reporting time targets are maxima and laboratories shall aim to report results as soon as practicably possible.

Day 0 is the day the sample is received into the laboratory with all appropriate information and all other required samples are received. This can also be the day that a specific investigation is activated if a request is made by a clinician for a test on a stored sample. For samples transferred between local molecular and cytogenetic laboratories within the same organisation, day 0 is the date of initial sample receipt (e.g. for array CGH testing, where DNA is extracted by the molecular laboratory and arrays are performed by the local cytogenetic laboratory within the same organisation, the time taken for DNA extraction is included within the reporting time target).

The end point of the test is measured when the results are available in an authorised state. This can be electronically stored and not yet sent out by the laboratory.

Table 1

Reporting Time Target (calendar days)	**Definitions**
3 days	Rapid aneuploidy QF-PCR/PCR/FISH testing for prenatal, postnatal or oncology referrals Rapid PCR/FISH testing for haemato-oncology referrals PCR-based tests where the result is needed urgently for prenatal diagnosis
10 days	Karyotype for urgent postnatal blood referrals
14 days	Karyotype results for prenatal referrals Karyotype results for urgent haemato-oncology referrals* Array CGH results for prenatal referrals and urgent postnatal Southern blot tests where the result is needed urgently for prenatal diagnosis PCR-based tests for predictive testing and confirmation of neonatal results.
21 days	Karyotype results for routine haemato-oncology referrals
28 days	Karyotype results for routine postnatal blood referrals Routine testing of solid tissue referrals Array CGH results for postnatal referrals Non-urgent PCR-based tests where the familial mutation is known (excluding predictive tests), specific mutation tests, or gene tracking by microsatellite analysis
56 days	Mutation screening or tests that require Southern blot analysis Next generation sequencing panels of ≤10 genes
112 days**	Next generation sequencing panels of >10 genes** and other large scale sequencing work e.g. WES and WGS

***A diagnostic FISH or PCR result is adequate in this category, with confirmatory cytogenetics treated as for routine referrals

****Temporary category to account for longer reporting times during implementation of new technology

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