

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Information Paper on Laboratory Automation System

Introduction

This paper provides further information on the development of the Laboratory Automation System (LAS) as requested by Members at the meeting held on 10 April 2000.

Details of the test services performed by LAS and the relevant charges

2. The LAS will handle routine haematology tests, routine chemistry tests and immunoassays. The list of tests available and their respective charges, published in the gazette, is at the Appendix. Tests conducted for clients in the private sector will be charged according to the gazetted prices.

Impact of LAS on the business of private laboratories

3. The routine haematology and biochemistry tests provided by LAS are currently generally available in the private laboratories. Although these services of the Department of Health (DH) have been made available to the private sector at a charge, past experience indicates that the demand for such services has been small, accounting for less than 0.1% of the total workload of DH's pathology test services. The introduction of LAS is therefore expected to have minimal impact on the business of the private laboratories.

Any test services performed by LAS which are not generally provided by private laboratories

4. All tests provided by LAS are generally available in the private laboratories. However, smaller laboratories may not have the expertise to provide the full range of services.

Department of Health
May 2000

Appendix

Test services to be performed by LAS and respective charges :

(I) Routine Haematology Test

Complete Blood Picture	}	\$235
Differential White Cell Count		
Absolute White Cell Count		
Reticulocyte Count		\$74

(II) Routine Chemistry Test

Albumin	\$42
Alanine aminotransferase (ALT)	\$42
Amylase	\$85
Aspartate aminotransferase (AST)	\$42
Bilirubin, total	\$42
Bilirubin, direct	\$85
Calcium	\$51
Chloride	\$42
Cholesterol, total	\$42
Cholesterol, HDL	\$78
CO2 content	\$42
Creatine phosphokinase (CPK)	\$42
Creatinine	\$42
Fructosamine	\$71
Gamma glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT)	\$42
Glucose	\$42
Glucose tolerance test, out patient	\$340
Iron	\$68
Iron binding capacity, total (TIBC)	\$85
Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)	\$42
Magnesium	\$165
Phosphatase alkaline	\$42
Phosphataee, alkaline, heat stable isoenzyme	\$82
Phosphate, inorganic	\$48
Potassium	\$42
Protein, total	\$42
Pseudocholinesterase	\$42
Sodium	\$42

Triglycerides	\$42
Urate	\$42
Urea	\$42

(III) Immunoassays

Alpha fetoprotein (AFP)	\$82
Carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA)	\$82
Cortisol	\$160
Estradiol*	*
Ferritin	\$120
Folate (serum)	\$160
Folate (RBC)	\$170
Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH)*	*
Luteinizing Hormone (LH)*	*
Progesterone*	*
Prolactin*	*
Prostate specific antigen (PSA)	\$110
Testosterone*	*
Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)	\$110
Thyroxine, free T4	\$110
Triiodothyronine, total (T3, total)	\$220
Vitamin B ₁₂	\$160
Carbamazepine (Tegretol)	\$120
Digoxin	\$120
Epilim	\$120
Phenytoin (Dilantin)	\$120
Phenobarbital (Luminal)	\$120
Theophylline	\$120

* These tests are currently not done by DH and the charges will have to be determined.