



National Centre for **Medical Genetics**

Ionad Náisiúnta **Gineolaíocht Leighis**

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Referring Clinicians/Clinics to Cytogenetics, NCMG

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Re: Revision of restrictions of Cytogenetic service

Dear Colleagues

As you are all aware due to on-going staffing restrictions and the large backlog that had built up the Division of Cytogenetics had to impose severe restrictions on its acceptance of samples for constitutional cytogenetic testing. While staffing issues remain I am pleased to say that the backlog has been resolved. Therefore, we are now in a position to be able to soften restrictions.

With immediate effect the service that we can currently offer is as follows:

Peripheral blood samples from the following referrals

- New-borns and children (<5 yr old) for chromosome (karyotype) analysis
- Microdeletion syndromes for FISH-only analysis (no age restrictions)
- On-going family studies

Solid Tissue

- Post natal tissue only

Prenatal testing

- As previous agreements

Some analyses not covered by the above may be offered on a one-off basis but this will be strictly by prior discussion with the laboratory.

The major change has been increasing the age cut off point from <1 to <5yrs. We will carry on monitoring the situation as to whether a further soften of the restrictions will be possible at a future date. Regrettably, the suspension of acceptance for products of conception samples still remains.

We continue to be in communication on a number of fronts with the aim to improve the situation within the laboratory so as to provide an increased service, but as you may appreciate this is a slow process with the likelihood there will be no dramatic change in the near future. If you have any questions or comments regarding our service please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

David Betts
Chief Clinical Scientist (Cytogenetics)