

## SA Pathology Newsletter February 2021

### Commencement of newborn screening for Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia



SA Pathology now tests for the steroid hormone synthesis defect (steroidogenesis pathway) congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) as part of our standard newborn screening panel. From the literature, the incidence of CAH is estimated at one in 15,000 to 20,000; therefore we expect to detect approximately one case per year in the South Australian population.

Newborn screening for CAH is well established in many national and international jurisdictions, and has been shown to prevent serious illness or even death. Our strategy provides optimal sensitivity and specificity representing world best-practice.

Health staff responsible for the management of newborns do not need to change their current practice, however information given to parents should include the new screening target. As always, attention to the collection of bloodspot samples, drying of the card, and prompt dispatch are critical to the success of the programme.

Screening results for CAH will be included in the standard newborn screening results, and also available electronically in OACIS, Sunrise, and downloaded into medical practice software systems for community patients.

Please contact the Neonatal Screening laboratory on 8161 7396 or the Head Biochemical Genetics on 8161 6739 if you have any questions about the introduction of CAH screening to the newborn screening panel.

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### New Gawler and Barossa domiciliary service



SA Pathology now offers a dedicated domiciliary service to residential homes and aged care facilities in the Gawler and Barossa region.

The service operates between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday.

To make a booking, fax the request form to SA Pathology on 8521 2171, ensuring the following details are recorded:

- clear clinical notes
- patient name, DOB, home address, contact phone number
- tests requested, along with fasting requirements
- clinician contact details
- form is clearly marked as a domiciliary request.

The domiciliary service will coordinate the booking direct with the patient.

Note – requests received after 4 pm will be processed and, where possible, arranged the following business day.

For urgent requests and collections on weekends please contact the SA Pathology Call Centre on 8222 3000.

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## New collection centre opens in Mitcham



On Monday 15 February, SA Pathology opened a new patient centre in the Mitcham General Practice, 77 Belair Road, Kingswood.

The centre will operate Monday to Friday between 8 am and 12 pm.

The building has undergone significant renovation works, converting it from an old bank to a medical practice. In a first for SA Pathology, our rooms are located in the original vault. The vault door has remained in place as homage to the building's unique history.

The new patient centre provides valuable pathology services to patients in Adelaide foothills and will further enhance SA Pathology's ability to provide quality diagnostic pathology services to the South Australian community.

SA Pathology is proudly South Australian, and accepts all pathology request forms.

## New improved caller options



Recently we changed our caller options to help you spend less time on the phone while still giving you access to the same comprehensive pathology information and services. Based on your feedback, we've made another small change to improve your experience.

Doctors and medical staff calling our 8222 3000 and 1800 188 077 numbers can now book a domiciliary visit by selecting option 1 and then option 2.

Our other options remain unchanged, select option 2 for couriers and option 3 for patients and other enquiries.

Speak to our friendly staff to book an appointment, ask a question, or pay an account. We're available all hours to assist.

# CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

SA Pathology has been at the forefront of the response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our team of dedicated clinicians, scientists, technicians, nurses and support staff are working 24/7 to ensure the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.

Visit our COVID-19 webpage to find the latest information, health updates and resources on COVID-19.

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

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SA Pathology  
PO Box 14 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5001

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