

MIDAZOLAM AND THIOPENTAL LEVELS

Midazolam and thiopental (thiopentone) levels are processed in Cardiff, Wales.

Process: Phone Duty Biochemist prior to sampling to explain reason for testing. See contact numbers below.

Sample: 5mls blood in EDTA red-topped tube for each drug level required. i.e 10ml if both midazolam and thiopental levels are required.

Ordering: Not through TRAK, but do a hand-written tube and request. Address envelope to "FAO Duty Biochemist WGH/RIE" and hand deliver to duty biochemist.

Destination: Samples are usually sent to Cardiff deep frozen after they have been spun in Biochemistry. Thiopental levels take 24hours from receipt in Cardiff, midazolam takes 48hours. All samples go by courier.

Timings: Once agreed, analysis will take place that day prior to 5pm, provided the sample has arrived at in Cardiff by 9am that morning. Analysis will only be possible from Monday to Friday.

Results: Write the details on the form going to Biochemistry of the name of the person and contact number in ICU to be contacted with results.

Contact numbers:

WGH biochemist (Mon-Fri 09:00 – 19.30) extension 31899.

RIE biochemist (Monday – Friday 09:00 – 19:30) extension 26879

On-call biochemist is available outwith these hours via switchboard.

Cardiff 02920 716894 if you want to chase up results

Units: Cardiff reports units in mg/L

If assays of thiopental are available, it is recommended that brain-stem testing should not be undertaken if the level is >5mg/L. If levels are not available then determining an adequate duration to exclude the effects of depressant drugs will involve prediction according to pharmacokinetic principles in both adults and children. Reference : A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND CONFIRMATION OF DEATH. October 2008
July 2011

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| Title: THIOPENTONE LEVELS | |
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| Status Draft/Final: Final | Approved by: QIT editorial group |
| | Written: December 2019 |
| Reviewed on: | Next review : August 2022 |