

CA 19-9 and CA 15-3 Service provision in Scotland:

CA 15-3 (Breast Cancer)

- The group recommends that CA 15-3 be measured by a single analytical method, to facilitate consistency of results for patients across Scotland and reduce clinical risk.
- The group recommends that CA 15-3 should be measured at a single centre (NHS Tayside), which is the only Scottish provider of this test. The only exception to this may be for boards who have patients that receive secondary care in England.
- Patients do not need to be re-baselined in order to change method providers as the different methods produce similar results.
- **Recommendations for Testing**
 - Indicated for use in patients with a history of metastatic or locally advanced breast cancer
 - May be restricted to named consultants
 - Not generally indicated in primary care without previous results/oncology review
 - Not useful to investigate cancer of unknown primary origin or as part of a tumour marker panel.

CA 19-9 (Hepatobiliary cancer)

- There are currently 3 laboratories in Scotland, which can provide a service for CA 19-9 using 3 different methods. The results produced by these methods vary dramatically with up to a tenfold difference in results between methods.
- The group recommends that ideally CA 19-9 be measured by a single analytical method across Scotland, to facilitate consistency of results across Scotland. The group is currently in talks to try and consolidate this service.
- In the meantime, where patients receive shared care across more than one health board, it is advisable that laboratories in these health boards try to ensure that the method for CA 19-9 is consistent where possible.
- **Recommendations for testing:**
 - Diagnosis of pancreatic carcinoma in patients with a pancreatic mass visible on imaging.
 - Surveillance and monitoring of patients with known pancreatic or GI cancers including:
 - Pancreatic
 - Cholangio/Biliary
 - Appendicial
 - Peritoneal
 - Patients who attend the Christie or Basingstoke Centre
 - May be restricted to named consultants/locations
 - Not generally indicated in primary care without previous results/oncology review
 - Not useful to investigate cancer of unknown primary origin or as part of a tumour marker panel.