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Provincial General Hospital,
Badulla.

07.10.2020

Relevant In chargers,
Provincial General Hospital,
Badulla.

HEMATOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY INVESTIGATIONS OF SUSPECTED COVID PATIENT FROM WARD 24 / OPD - C ROOM.

With the recommendation from Dr. R.M.T.K. Ranasinghe, Acting Consultant Clinical Microbiologist PGH Badulla and adhering to interim guidance of College of Chemical Pathologists following guidance will be applied to sample handling of COVID 19 suspected patients.

Please be good enough to adhere below guidelines to smooth operation of COVID 19 patient management of PGH Badulla.

* Protocol annexed herewith.

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Protocol for the handling and Processing of the chemical pathological and haematological investigations in suspected COVID 19 patients – PGH Badulla

- All the specimen should be sent to the on-call laboratory after informing over the phone to the SMLT
- All materials transported from wards to laboratory or within the laboratory should be placed in a secondary container to minimize the potential breakage or a spill.
- All specimens being transported should have appropriate packaging, labeling and documentation
- The porters should wear a surgical mask and gloves during specimen transport
- The specimens should not be open during reception and processing i.e. During centrifugation.
- Any sample which is leaking should not be accepted.
- Centrifugation should be done in sealed centrifuge buckets.
- Loading and unloading of centrifuge buckets and opening of specimen containers should be performed in appropriately maintained and validated bio safety cabinet (class 2)
- In the absence of above facilities, centrifugation in a dedicated area followed by 30 minutes waiting time to open the lid of centrifuge is recommended. Opening of the lids of the specimen containers should be done by an experienced person with no or minimum aerosol generation in the same dedicated area before placing in the analyzer.
- The laboratory technician should wear surgical mask, face shield or goggles, gloves, cap and apron.
- The surface or the racks where the specimens are kept until analysis should be decontaminated.
- After the sample processing the bench tops/ horizontal surfaces/ and wood floor should be cleaned with 0.1% TCL.
- Any surface or material known to be, or potentially be, contaminated by biological agents during laboratory operations must be correctly disinfected with the appropriate disinfectants e.g. 0.1% TCL (1% for blood spills), alcohol (70%)
- Clinical waste must be packaged in yellow double bags for transfer to the facility with decontamination capacity.
- When handling and processing specimens, laboratory practices and procedures that are basic to good microbiological practices and procedures (GMPP) should be followed. (Annex 1)

Reference: Biosafety guidance for laboratory tests (chemical Pathology) related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) College of chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka (CCPSL) Interim guidance (15-03-2020)



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