

APTT TESTING - CHANGE IN LEVEL OF DETECTION

There has been a change to the coagulation screen reagent used for Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT) in the Lothian NHS laboratories.

It has been noticed that there has been a change in the level of detection:

- Please be aware the current APTT reagent is less sensitive to clotting factor deficiencies. **Even minor prolongations of the APTT may represent clinically significant deficiency** so need to be escalated – particularly important in perioperative setting or if patients are reporting abnormal bleeding or abnormal bruising.
- Some clotting factor deficiencies may not result in APTT prolongation so if there is clinically significant bleeding in the absence of other explanation clotting factor assays may be indicated.
- The APTT reagent is not lupus-sensitive. Therefore, a prolonged APTT should not be put down to lupus anticoagulant effect but more likely due to reduced clotting factors.
- If prolonged APTT results are obtained repeat and refer to haematology for advice if persistently abnormal.
- Clinical details must be included to aid haematology laboratory interpretation of coagulation screens.

March 2025.