**Department of Immunology**

Manchester Royal Infirmary

Oxford Road

Manchester

M13 9WL

Direct Line 0161 276 6686 Office Hours 09:00 to 17:00

To Whom It May Concern:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Diagnosis** | **Undetermined ?allergic reaction**  **?Anaphylaxis** |

Investigation of possible anaphylaxis is greatly helped by measuring mast cell tryptase levels at the time of the event. Mast cell tryptase is a mast cell specific enzyme released at the time of acute anaphylaxis and therefore a significantly elevated level in the correct clinical context can confirm the diagnosis. The sample requirements and strategy are listed below:

Sample type – clotted blood sample for mast cell tryptase

3 samples taken at different times – clearly labelled with time of event and time of sampling:

1. First sample as soon as possible after the suspected reaction
2. Second sample to be taken 1 to 2 hours (but no later than 4 hours) after the suspected reaction (most important sample)
3. Third sample (for baseline levels) at 24 hours (not necessary if the patient has already been discharged!)

At all times treatment of the patient should not be delayed by sampling.

Please send a copy of the patients discharge summary to me at the above address so I am aware of the attendance.

Yours sincerely

**Immunology Department**