Memo

TO: Clinicians  
FROM: NSWHP  
DATE: 28.2.2019  
TEL: 9382 4806  
SUBJECT: Faecal Fats will no longer be offered – Replaced by Faecal Elastase.

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to inform you that the New South Wales Health Pathology laboratory in Prince of Wales Hospital (formerly known as SEALS) will cease testing for Faecal Fat on 28.2.2019.

The Faecal Fat test has become obsolete, due to uncertain and often uncontrolled dietary fat intake, incomplete faecal collections and lack of suitable quality control and quality assurance materials for its measurement. These shortcomings make the Faecal Fat test a low quality investigation of questionable clinical value. Recent recommendations propose the use of Faecal Elastase, as a better quality test, for diagnosing severe pancreatic insufficiency.  

The Faecal Elastase test is currently available in our laboratory. For more information please refer to our fact sheet (attached).

References


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