

Instructions for requesting Breast / Gastric HER2 testing

The Department of Cellular Pathology, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust provides a HER2 testing service for breast, gastric and biliary cancers. The instructions for sending referrals to this service are set out below.

1. Complete a 'HER2-HPV Request Form' (ref # HILF492) ensuring all required sections are completed.
2. With the form send the following:
 - a. A copy of the relevant histology report.
 - b. A FFPE tissue block containing invasive tumour. *Where possible tissue should be fixed in an adequate volume of neutral buffered formalin for 18 to 24 hours and then processed using an overnight processing schedule.*
Please note that we cannot accept unstained sections.
 - c. A representative H&E stained slide from the submitted block (optional). If sending a mega-block for testing a H&E must be sent with tumour to be assessed marked on the slide. *Where possible mega-blocks should be avoided.*
 - d. For ISH requests, a HER2 IHC slide marked with 3 areas of interest. *HER2 ISH requests are not accepted for biliary cases.*
3. Safely package form, block and slide/s in accordance with Post Office Regulations.
4. Send the package to:

Specimen Reception
Department of Cellular Pathology,
Level 3, New Victoria Wing,
Royal Victoria Infirmary,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 4LP
0191 282 4270
5. Once received by Cellular Pathology at NUTH HER2 IHC staining will be performed using (Ventana) Pathway Her2 (4B5) on a Roche Benchmark ULTRA / ULTRA PLUS IHC/ISH system. Ventana HER2 Dual ISH DNA Probe Cocktail Assay will be performed on breast and gastric cases scoring 2+ at IHC. *ISH is not currently performed on biliary cases.*
6. HER2 IHC reports will be issued between 5 and 10 working days. If ISH is required then a report can be expected within an additional 5 working days.
7. Contact numbers for queries for assistance:

Technical assistance, ICC Lab:	0191 282 4270
Report enquiries, general office:	0191 282 4445
Interpretation queries, gastric:	Dr Antony Darne, 0191 282 4445
Interpretation queries, breast:	Dr Rachel Howitt or Dr Neelima Thampy, 0191 282 4445