

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS, Hyderabad

Sample acceptance policy in Diagnostics Division

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) is an autonomous organization funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Diagnostics division at Centre for DNA Fingerprinting & Diagnostics offers comprehensive diagnosis of genetic diseases (cytogenetic, biochemical and molecular). The centre offers tests for diagnosis and prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities, single gene disorders and inborn errors of metabolism.

As per the recommendations of an expert committee in July, 2007 it was decided that the most appropriate model for functioning of the Diagnostics division would be to function as a Genetic referral centre rather than as a laboratory, wherein patients would be examined and investigated by qualified medical geneticists in CDFD rather than accepting samples for genetic testing. Following this a MoU was signed between Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) and Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics for creation of a Medical Genetics department at NIMS. Consequent to appointment of faculty in the Medical Genetics department and cessation of patient examination/counseling activity at CDFD, the following policies will be followed regarding acceptance of samples for testing in Diagnostics division of CDFD-

- **Blood/ Urine samples**

- 1. Patients attending OPD at NIMS:**

- Blood/Urine samples for all patients examined at the Department of Medical Genetics at NIMS will be sent to CDFD and the reports will be sent back to NIMS to be handed over to patients with counseling.

- 2. Blood/Urine samples sent at NIMS:**

- Blood/Urine samples of patients will be accepted in Medical Genetics department at NIMS only in patients who are not in a position to travel to the hospital. This includes bedridden patients, patients on ventilator etc. For such patients, the referring doctor (after discussion with the Medical genetics consultants in NIMS) will be requested to send blood/urine sample to NIMS along with clinical details of patient and

the same shall be sent to CDFD. The reports will be sent back to NIMS and the same will be handed over to the patient relatives in NIMS.

3. Blood/Urine samples sent to CDFD:

- In general, all doctors will be encouraged to send patients to the Medical Genetics OPD in NIMS so that proper patient examination and counseling can be done.
- However, in view of unavailability of genetics tests throughout the country and need for patients to travel long distances, Diagnostics division at CDFD will continue to receive blood/urine samples from doctors in distant centres.
- For all such samples sent, the doctor will be requested to discuss the case with doctors in CDFD/NIMS and send samples along with full clinical details. Samples will be accepted only from doctors and reports will be sent only to the referring doctor.

• Prenatal Samples (Amniotic fluid/chorionic villus/cord blood)

1. Samples sent to CDFD

- CDFD will continue to accept prenatal samples at CDFD from external centres since both CDFD and NIMS do not have facilities for prenatal diagnostic procedures at present.
- However all such patients will be required to first come to the Medical Genetics OPD in NIMS along with all clinical reports. Based on evaluation by Medical genetics doctors in NIMS, if the patients need to undergo prenatal diagnosis then they will be sent to the referring physician/centre of their choice for the prenatal diagnostic procedure. The patient will be told to give the prenatal sample directly in CDFD and payment will be accepted along with filling of necessary forms. The report will be given in the Medical Genetics OPD in NIMS.
- This arrangement will continue until prenatal diagnostic procedure facilities are established in the Department of Medical Genetics at NIMS.