Dear Participant

Outcomes from recent audits of AML17 samples received at Birmingham University have revealed a few areas for development and I hope you are willing to help with these matters, as follows:

1. Sample age
As you may be aware, recent guidelines state that bone marrow samples need to undergo immunophenotyping within 48–72 hours of being taken.[1] We are currently processing about 77% of samples within 24 hours of arrival, and will be trying to improve this percentage. However, in order for us to achieve this 48–72 hours target for most samples could we ask for your help by sending samples to Birmingham *on the day they are taken*. Currently, 41–54% arrive within 24 hours of being taken, but substantial proportions arrive much later (approximately 20% by 2 days, 8–15% within 3 days, 11–17% within 4 days, and some samples taking as long as 7 or 8 days to arrive).

2. Sample labelling
Results of a recent audit have shown that patient date of birth is very useful, particularly in presentation cases as these samples are sent before randomisation. Also, sample labelling is the most common error we identified in recent audits (usually either missing patient details or the supply of non-anonymised full name/patient details). To avoid these mishaps, please can you make sure you are using the correct form for this trial (see enclosed file) and that details are filled in correctly?

Hopefully, if we improve in these areas then the overall results of the analyses may be improved as well as the smooth running of the trial administration, and your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes

Nithiya Clark
AML trials office
Clinical Immunology Service

1. Johansson U, Bloxham D, Couzens S, Jesson J, Morilla R, Erber W, Macey M. Guidelines on the use of multicolour flow cytometry in the diagnosis of haematological neoplasms. British Committee for Standards in Haematology. *Br J Haematol* 2014; **165(4)**: 455–88.