

<b>Porphyrins (Faeces)</b>	
<b>Description</b>	Porphyrins (Faeces)
<b>Indication</b>	Investigation of suspected porphyria
<b>Additional Info</b>	Faecal porphyrin analysis is most useful in the differentiation of the neurological porphyrias and in the acute photosensitising porphyria, variegate porphyria. Patients who present with dermatological symptoms of suspected porphyria should undergo full assessment of blood, urine and faecal porphyrin analysis.
<b>Concurrent Tests</b>	Blood and urine porphyrin analysis.
<b>Dietary Requirements</b>	N/A
<b>Interpretation</b>	In most cases the results of porphyrin analysis of blood and urine will be sufficient to establish the presence of and type of porphyria. However in some cases it is useful to perform faecal porphyrin analysis to confirm the type of porphyria.
<b>Collection Conditions</b>	Transport to lab without delay to minimise bacterial modification of porphyrins. Protect sample from light by collecting specimen into plastic container and then place in a brown envelope or wrap in tin foil or a black bag. Transport to lab in standard specimen bag with request form attached. Porphyrin analysis is not performed at RLUH and is sent to a referral lab by first class post. Should you require urgent analysis please notify the duty biochemist on x 4236 to arrange for urgent taxi transport of samples.
<b>Frequency of testing</b>	As required