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Dear Colleague

Removal of specific IgE to cheese mould from repertoire

The NHS GGC Immunology lab will be withdrawing the “cheese mould type” specific IgE test from the list of available testing. Cheese mould type specific IgE is not on our list of UKAS accredited tests.

Cheese mould type specific IgE is a complex test of multiple different moulds used to make certain forms of mouldy cheeses e.g. camembert, brie, Roquefort, and requires specialist interpretation and careful correlation to the reaction history so in general would not be considered a standard IgE request. There is little evidence to be able to differentiate a positive result on cheese mould testing from more generalised environmental mould sensitisation which does not usually cause allergic symptoms on ingestion or dairy allergy. The few well documented cases of cheese mould allergy appear to be in those with occupational risk factors. The reports of cheese allergy are almost all related to the dairy content and so testing for cow’s milk allergy is a better test than the moulds.

Cheddar cheese type specific IgE does remain available as it is on our UKAS scope. It is anticipated that this would predominantly be specialist use as it again predominantly looks at the mould species within cheddar style cheeses and not the cheese as a whole.

Yours sincerely,



**Arthur Price
Consultant Immunologist NHSGGC**