Anaemia of unknown cause - Second Line Investigations

Anaemia with no clear cause and no haematinic deficiency

Send 2nd line investigations

Blood film for medical review
Haemolysis screen: bilirubin, LDH, direct antiglobulin test, reticulocytes, haptoglobin
Haemoglobinopathy screen: Haemoglobin electrophoresis (extra purple top required)
Myeloma screen: immunoglobulins, serum electrophoresis and serum free light chains

Test	Finding in Myeloma
Serum electrophoresis	Presence of monoclonal paraprotein
Serum free light chains ratio (SFLC) kappa:Lambda ratio	Raised or Low

Test	Finding in Haemolysis
Haptoglobin	Low
LDH	Increased
Reticulocytes	Increased
Unconjugated Billirubin	Increased
Urinalysis	Urobilinogen, +ve for blood
DAT Test	+ve or -ve

Test	Finding in Haemoglobinopathy
Hb electrophoresis	Abnormal Hb variant detected
Thalassaemia trait doesn't need discussing with Haematology, but others do - as guided by lab comment	

If any of the following
Positive result
Negative result + Hb <110 g/L
Unsure how to interpret results

Discuss with haematology

Urgent if results suggest
Haemolytic anaemia or Myeloma

Non-Urgent
Everything else