

Pathology News

Laboratory Edition – July 2015

Pathology Transport Improvements

The Trust has given the Pathology Department the sum of £134,000 a year to help improve General Practice sample transport. We know that at present many samples take too long to arrive in the laboratory. In particular this affects results for potassium with us having to “NA” samples from general practice every day. This leads to a poor patient experience with patients being re-bled at the hospital to determine whether or not they have an abnormal potassium level. There are similar issues with delayed Haematology and Microbiology samples.

We have now established a group which will look at how we best use this funding. The key areas are:

- Improving transport systems and ensuring that they are efficient and effective both between GP surgeries, health centres and our laboratories and also between our two sites.
- Where receiving samples within our four hour target time is not practical then we will be looking to add in centrifuges together with training and maintenance support. We also realise that Phlebotomy time will be spent on centrifuging samples and we will need where required to add to our phlebotomy time as well with this initiative.
- Further details will be provided in the Pathology News as things progress.

Pathology Group Manager



Jonathan Walters currently a senior manager for Clinical Support Services at George Elliot Hospital began his NHS career as a West Midlands Regional trainee MLSO in the early 1980's specialising in Microbiology and participating in multidisciplinary cover for Biochemistry, Haematology and Transfusion.

Away from work he lives with his family in North Warwickshire, having recently concluded that his football career is now very much behind him the local golf course is now suffering his sporting ambitions.

For many years he has kept an allotment and has a keen interest in horticulture. He also spends time outdoors training and working his dog. Jonathan is looking forward to starting with us in September.

SWBH Pathology Facebook Page

A Facebook page has been created for our staff as another form of communication which is called “SWBH Pathology”.

If you put SWBH Pathology into your Facebook search and **like** the page then you will automatically receive updates as they appear.



Your Voice Survey Results

All managers have received the full “Your Voice” results for May. Here we give an overview of the responses for everyone. We have looked at the key issues and where relevant put down people within Pathology to address them.

Item	Comment	Proposed Action
Directorate Management	Several people commented that they feel directorate leaders are blocking good ideas from departments. The Pathology Group feel that they are receptive to new ideas from right across Pathology. However it is important such comments are considered and fed back.	Discuss at July Group Meeting.
Team Working in Pathology	A number of people commented on the excellent team working approaches in Pathology	Continue team working initiatives.
Perception on not enough staff and too many managers	We need staff to understand the roles of section supervisors and managers and clearly demonstrate they are required. We have also lost manager posts in recent times.	Communicate at all levels on roles of managers.
Frequency of Your Voice too great	Several people suggested Your Voice is being produced too often	Feedback at Group Review.
Duplication of databases for stock control	One comment suggests that our IT and stock control systems should be reviewed as there is duplication of effort.	Feed comment to laboratory managers and IT manager.
Out of hours working staff not sufficient	Staff in Haematology in particular, feel they do not have enough out of hour’s people.	Continue with new style out of hours working implementation.
Agile area at Sandwell issues	Some staff felt people are having confidential discussions inappropriately in an open area.	Remind people of confidential office area availability.
Impact of failure of Abbott Track	Consequences of failure of components of Abbott track are highlighted as impacting on both clinical service and other departments.	We continually try to address this.

10th Anniversary of the Pathology Ski Trip

It has been 10 years since the Pathology Ski trip started. To mark the anniversary the ski group have decided to go to France next year - details are as follows:

Les Arcs 2000, France

Hotel Aiguille Rouge

Sat 30 Jan – Sat 7 February 2016

All pathology staff are welcome. Whether you are a first time skier or an advanced one you will find that this place caters for everyone.

Beginners - Personal ski lessons in Birmingham will be provided so that by the time you fly out to France in January you will be confident, and if you require lessons on the resort then you will also be supported with these to.

If you are interested then email jonathanberg@nhs.net.

Ski booking forms are available on the noticeboards at Sandwell and City or alternatively email Raj rajvindergarcha@nhs.net and she will send you a form out.

