

Sent via Email to:

Trust Chief Executives
Cluster Chief Executives
Trust Medical Directors

Southside
105 Victoria Street
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28 June 2011

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Dear Colleague,

Modernising Pathology in London – Report

During 2010/11 the London Pathology Modernisation Programme has been developing the clinical and service case for change for pathology services in London in response to the national pathology programme.

Recommendations

The Modernising Pathology Programme Board, chaired by Fiona Wise, was supported by a clinical expert panel, chaired by Professor Adrian Newland. The main recommendations of the programme are that pathology services in London should in future be organised on a networked model, as recommended by the national Carter review, and that London-wide clinical and service standards should be set for pathology, both GP direct access and hospital services. The economic analysis indicates that five networks, each based on a high volume hub laboratory, is the optimum model for London. This model has the potential to release up to £176 million per annum in cost savings across London, while delivering measurable enhancements to patient care. These recommendations and others that should be considered by all pathology providers in London, are presented in detail in the attached report “Modernising Pathology in London”. The detailed clinical recommendations will be issued as a clinical standards pack with guidance to commissioners in August.

Implementation programme

The NHS London Delivery Group decided at its June meeting to take forward a London-wide programme to implement the report's recommendations. While there will be a London-wide programme, it is known that the cluster areas are in different positions, some having already made progress towards planning for networking, with others having more complex existing provision to consider.

The London pathology programme team will agree process and timescales for option appraisal and decision making with each cluster area by September. It is anticipated that the implementation of the agreed solutions will substantially be in place by March 2013.

Governance

Rob Larkman, Chief Executive of NHS Brent and Harrow, has taken over from Fiona Wise as the Senior Responsible Officer for the implementation phase of the London Pathology Modernisation Programme. The Clinical lead will continue to be Prof. Adrian Newland, and the Programme Director is Diana Middleditch.

The programme steering group will report to the London Productivity and Commercial Board and the Delivery Group will maintain oversight.

Members of the programme team can be contacted by email on pathology@london.nhs.uk. They would welcome the opportunity to discuss the recommendations and the programme with members of your team and/ or Trust clinicians.

Please will you let the programme office have contact details for your clinical and operational leads for pathology.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Mitchell', with a horizontal flourish underneath.

Dr Andy Mitchell
Medical Director
NHS London

Attachment: Report- "Modernising pathology in London."