

Notes from the Pathology User Group Meeting

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| Date of meeting: 3 rd October 2013 @ 13:30hrs. | |
| Held at: Pathology Meeting Room 1, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (RBFT) | |
| Present: Michelle Jennings, Manager, Brookside; Dave Asplin (DA), Quality Manager, RBFT; Ann Halford (AH), Central Services Manager; RBFT; Maria Harris, Phlebotomist, Chapel Row Surgery; Richard Rogers (RR), Head BMS, Haematology, RBFT; Angela Slattery, Eastfield Surgery; Andy Button (AB), Practice Manager, Swallowfield Surgery; Carole Jenner, Practice Nurse, Chapel Row/ Newbury PBC; Debi Joyce, CSCSU; Mandy Babington, HBMS, Cellular Pathology, RBFT; David Fish, Cellular Pathology, RBFT; Shabnam Iyer, Consultant Microbiologist, RBFT; Jacqui Osypiw, HOD, Biochemistry, RBFT; Lucy Shorthouse, Haematology, RBFT . | |
| Apologies: Jo Spicer, Pathology Liaison, Wallingford Medical Practice; Phillip Haynes, Partner, Brookside; Geoff Lester (GL), CSUD, RBFT. | |
| Notes | Action |
| The notes from the last meeting were agreed. | |
| Consumable Orders | |
| Being pursued and on list of projects for IT and for consideration as part of ICE system. We will contact all when there is progress. | |
| Wrong Receipt Date | |
| A small number of results were received with a stated receipt date of 5/5/13. Investigated and resolved. Problem was that, if no time & date of collection entered, the system pulled over the date of ordering. Action complete. | |
| Fasting Lipids | |
| The ability to order fasting lipids and random glucose on ICE on the same order has been stopped. Action complete. Please encourage all those ordering to either tick if fasting or state that patient not fasted. | To note |
| Clinical Governance | |
| No trends or major changes in unlabelled/ mislabelled samples from surgeries. We are averaging around 2700 request forms per day. The instances of poor/ insufficient labelling has improved significantly. Thanks to all for their support in ensuring implementation of the National Patient Safety recommendations. Please note we will accept Post Code or first line of address where NHS number is unavailable (excepting transfusion related). Any clinical governance issues that arise, please pass to Dave Asplin, Quality Manager to resolve. No other clinical governance issues were raised. | |

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| <p>Quality & Service issues</p> <p>Please note that some automated tests are auto-validated by our computer system when the results are within defined ranges. This means that not all request forms are seen by the clinical/ technical staff and notes in the clinical details section such as “malaria?” may be missed. With ICE, please use the “request manual look at form” to ensure appropriate staff review. Future enhancement of the ICE system may highlight.</p> <p>The front page of the ICE request screen has been updated to reflect the most requested tests after a review of present needs.</p> <p>A copy of the sample storage document (available on the pathology handbook – under the “Reference” section LHS of front page) was handed out with a request to continue following. It is intended in the future to use urine containers with preservative to ensure quality of samples for testing. We will inform users when this is due to happen.</p> <p>The question of continued use of monovettes was raised. These are still required as before – they do not leak.</p> <p>The latest situation on a semenology service was discussed. RBFT have not provided this service for a number of years and Dunedin were commissioned. Their contract finished in September. AB stated that he had received correspondence that it had been extended to December. <i>Post meeting note: we have been informed it has been extended to the end of March 2014 now.</i></p> | <p>Please note</p> |
| <p>Topic of the Day</p> <p><u>Service Improvements –</u></p> <p>Bracknell clinic phlebotomy service has extended opening hours of 08:00 to 16:00, Mon – Fri.</p> <p>Pathology have conducted a working patterns review and are to introduce an improved system to better provide a 24 hour service to meet the changing needs of our users.</p> <p>A brief summary of the position regarding pathology reconfiguration. At present, RBFT are discussing a combined Berkshire/ Surrey partnership to include Wexham Park and the already established Surrey partnership. Transport is one of the key topics (note the present contract for sample collections runs until September 2014). Maintaining and improving the service offered is a key aim of ours in this. We will keep you informed.</p> | |
| <p>Any other business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requests for swabs were discussed. Requests that just state “ulcer swab”, “wound swab” or just “swab” do not provide enough detail to perform the correct, clinically relevant tests. Presently, less than 2% of these requests are providing clinically useful results and cost around £8 per test. Please follow the Public Health England guidance on their website (http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/PrimaryCareGui) | <p>All to note</p> |

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| <p>dance/). A link will be put on the pathology handbook also. We need all relevant details and ask that clinical symptoms are looked at prior to any request. It was raised that practice nurses and district nurses often carry out these and this information needs cascading.</p> <p>2. The need for clippings to be put on black/ dark paper/ card was discussed. This is to ensure they are all visible. Paper of around 150 gr/m² please.</p> <p>3. Test pricing on ICE was raised. This requires an update of the ICE system which requires funding. This is under consideration.</p> <p>4. Please note that warfarin referral via ICE is being developed and trialed at present.</p> <p>5. Smear takers please note: use ICE forms for requesting please. You can pre-order and postpone (with “sample now”).</p> | <p>To note</p> <p>DA (GP)</p> <p>Smear takers</p> |
| <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>TBA. DA to send out possible dates for the next meeting and go with the majority vote.</p> | <p>DA</p> |

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