Diagnostic Networks and Blood Transfusion

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National Clinical Advisor
Chair, Pathology Productivity Optimisation and Implementation Board,
NHSI Operational Productivity
History of consolidation in the NHS
Results: The Carter review

• Report saw £5bn of value opportunity 2020-21, if unwarranted variation removed.
• Operational Productivity Directorate in NHSI to deliver report’s recommendations 09.16)

Minimum estimated savings opportunity by area £bn:
- Optimised use of clinical workforce: 2.0
- Hospital pharmacy and medicines optimisation: 0.8
- Diagnostics – pathology and radiology: 0.2
- Procurement: 0.7
- Estates and facilities management: 1.0
- Corporate and administration (back office) costs: 0.3
- Total opportunity: 5.0
Overview of the final report: £5bn savings

15 recommendations involving:

• Optimising application of clinical resources
• Optimising use of non-clinical resources
• Quality & efficiency throughout care pathway
• Implementation & engagement with trusts
Covers all healthcare across prevention, screening, monitoring and diagnosis from before conception until post mortem. All with appropriate clinical and scientific support for local clinical teams.

- **Clinically lead service**. Every result issued has been monitored, reviewed or commented upon by a medical clinician or state registered (via HCPC) Biomedical or Clinical Scientist.

- **Integrated access** to sub-specialty expertise available for community, primary, secondary and tertiary at a single touch point. Scientists all have a sub-speciality training, and have an active role in many specialist MDT meetings.

- **Accreditation and quality assurance** integral to service delivery. Pathology in the UK has lead the way in clinical accreditation for more than 20 years. UK system is the basis of the current international accreditation standard.

- **Keen technology adopters**. Moving academic and novel technologies into routine, safe, clinical practice.
Improving the quality and value of NHS pathology services

- Pathology is essential in over 70% of patient pathways.
- High quality services, delivering timely results for patients, will also support national priorities in genomics, cancer care and integrated healthcare.
- Currently there is national excess capacity in equipment, yet we are seeing local workforce shortages.
- Variation of non-pay costs in routine testing from £0.02 to £1.26 per test.
- Networking at scale allows for better value, better utilisation of capital equipment, faster turn around times where required and more opportunities for the workforce to undertake extended roles.
- NHS Improvement is engaging with the sector, with strong support for the hub and spoke model.

NHS Improvement is working with trusts to move towards 29 pathology networks across England.
Pathology Under the Microscope

Variation In Use Of MLA And BMS Staff In Acute Teaching Trusts

Average Non-Pay Cost Per Blood Sciences Test For Large And Medium Acute Trusts

Average Non-pay Cost Per Blood Sciences Tests in Large & Medium Acute Trusts
Benefits of consolidation

Clinical

- Allows for ESL to focus on what is clinically urgent and provide shorter TAT
- Allows for greater collaboration between pathologists, resulting in better quality diagnoses
- Increases the standardisation of service across the UK
- The economies of scale benefits can lead to faster turn around time of routine work and can enable the latest technology to be purchased

Financial

- Economies of scale benefits allow for better utilisation of expensive capital equipment
- Less duplication of functions across the network such as HR, finance, logistics, marketing etc
- Increased volume allows for greater negotiating power to drive down costs of equipment, IT, reagents and consumables

Operational

- Improves service resilience through backup sites and increased workforce
- Networking across wider geographies provides a solution to localised recruitment challenges
- Economies of scale allows for centralisation of low volume, high expertise testing
- Allows for standardisation of IT systems, logistics and result delivery
Pathology Configuration

- Primary Care Services
  - POC
  - Single LIMS System
- Community Diagnostics
- Acute Hospital Services
  - Rapid Delivery
  - ‘Essential Service Laboratory’
- Specialist and Molecular Services
Principles
The provision of laboratory services for the acute setting is vital to ensure safe patient care. We have developed a tool kit that describes the minimum service that should be available. ESL that vary from this toolkit should be justified using clinical evidence, or robust data to demonstrate efficient use of resources.

The ESL

- **Only the services needed to provide acute pathology provision should be commission in an ESL.** All other work should be performed in the hub laboratory.
- Meet all regulatory and accreditation standards (MRHA, UKAS, HSE).
- Have a clear **clinical and operational governance link to the Hub.**
- Have a clear management structure.
- **True interoperability with the Hub,** with a single LIMS or full IT integration, common platforms and procedures.
- **Full 24/7 rota,** multidisciplinary assistant grades, aspiration towards multidisciplinary Biomedical Scientists.
- Have clear **training strategy** that is harmonised with the Hub laboratory, provided by staff supernumerary to the ESL.
- Have agreed performance metrics, service specification. **Variation only where it is warranted.**

What does good look like

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does good look like</th>
<th>Clinical Governance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Clear leadership</td>
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<td>• Clear escalation points for local issues</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIMS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Integration and full interoperability</td>
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<tr>
<th>Logistics</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Harmonised with Hub</td>
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<td>• Timely</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provided by Hub</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ISO 15189</td>
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<td>• MHRA</td>
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<th>Training</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Supported by the Hub, delivered across the network</td>
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<td>• Full rotation of staff</td>
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<th>Business continuity</th>
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<td>• Clear robust, tested plans.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• POC and emergency procedures.</td>
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<th>Implementation</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Step change implementation, involving quality assessments and review</td>
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improvement.nhs.uk/resources/pathology-networks-toolkit/
State of the Nation

The state of the nation: our work so far

Next steps for the sector: timelines and requirements

London 2

Midlands and East 2

South 8: Kent Pathology Services

The state of the nation: our work so far

Next steps for the sector: timelines and requirements

London 2

Midlands and East 2

South 8: Kent Pathology Services
State of the Nation

National Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region (no. of Networks)</th>
<th>SOC*</th>
<th>OBC*</th>
<th>FBC*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London (5)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands and East (8)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North (8)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South (8)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Or equivalent

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<tr>
<th>Level of Engagement and continuing risk (%)</th>
<th>Agreement on local partnership operating model (%)</th>
<th>Networking on track and on target for 20/21 (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>97%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>76%</td>
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*State of the Nation*
A Quality Service

CLINICAL

QUALITY
ISO standards + UKAS(CPA)
NEQAS
PQAD

LABORATORY ← ACADEMIC
Pathology Quality Assurance Dashboard

• This is a tool for individual Trusts to assess and manage the benefit Pathology services can deliver. It is not a contractual tool to manage the service.

• Timely collection of appropriate data. To give Trust Board visibility of system wide metrics that Pathology has an impact on. The aim is to support national initiatives.

• Collecting data in one place, once. Benchmarking performance to continuously drive improvement.

• Looking to include metrics for Innovation and Training to support long term sustainability of workforce and adopting advance and innovative roles.

• Potential to propose KPIs initially where national targets do not exist.
Specialist Services/Testing

• Specialist Trusts have been mapped into networks, however, we are aware of the supra-regional and national impact some of services have.

• Formation of a board sub-committee to investigate the opportunity and approach; Paediatrics, Bone Pathology, Blood Transfusion, Neuropathology,

• Defining attributes of specialist services to support: -
  
  • Training / Succession
  • Clinical Pathways - Providing greater access to more patients
  • Innovation and translational development
  • Development of accepted standards, protocols, and national leadership
  • Diagnostic pathway optimisation
Blood Transfusion subgroup - Objectives

• Establish a Clinically Led Liaison Steering Group with representation from NHS E/I and NHS
• Provide an Interface between NHS E/I and NHS BT laboratories
• Develop a Network of specialist NHS BT Laboratories
• Provide additional governance to NHS BT assuring good, safe, standardised laboratory practice
• Ensure services working to common objectives
• Ensure Systematic Accreditation Assurance to benchmarked standards
• Assure training and education, including CPD provides sustainable, competent workforce across the system
Blood Transfusion subgroup - Issues

- Quality and appropriateness of transfusion training
- Appropriate leadership oversight of transfusion laboratories
- Shortage of qualified workforce
- Transfusion guidelines in need of review
- Governance assurance - guidance even if in place not always followed
- Lack of improvement in services evidenced by NEQAS
What are the pitfalls for Blood Transfusion?

• IT and interoperability
  
  *NHS Digital*

• Staffing; Vacancies, recruitment and retention
  
  *HEE*

• Equipment
  
  *Procurement*

• Funding
  
  *Access to National Funding sources*
Data Extracted from the UK NEQAS Pre-Transfusion Testing questionnaire 2018

IT and Automation (Total = 200; 100%)

- 80.5% using iSoft or Clinisys. There were 15 other commercial IT suppliers reported, with none of these having more than eight users.
- iSoft (including CSC/DXC) 83 (41.5%) Clinisys 79 (39.5%) Other* 38 (19.0%)

* including three using in-house systems Booking EQA samples into the LIMS

LIMS interface with automation (Total = 180; 100%)

Interface between automation and LIMS Number (%)

- Bi-directional 141 (78.3%) Uni-directional 36 (20.0%) Not interfaced 3 (1.7%)
- 139/177 (78.5%) of LIMS systems recognise when a result has been edited on the analyser, and 92/128 (71.9%) of those using EI indicated that this flag prevents electronic issue.

Technology used for primary group and screen (G+S) – manual, automated and overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Number G+S automated</th>
<th>Number G+S manual</th>
<th>Total number (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bio-Rad</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>97 (48.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ortho</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60 (29.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immucor</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22 (10.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grifols</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube based methods</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All techniques</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>201 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Programme Updates

Carter Efficiency fund.
- SoS has approved the remaining £50m Carter Capital Efficiency fund for Digital Diagnostics adoption and scale up.
- Working with Office of Life Sciences to develop a how best to utilise this fund, likely to involve working with the Centres of Excellence and Innovate UK.
- The key theme of this fund will be added value and increased adoption.
- Split between Pathology and Imaging programmes

Publications
State of the Nation (2019)
- Provide a public update to progress to date.
PQAD
- Quality assurance tool monitoring laboratory performance set out by the Barnes’ (2012) review
Next - Microbiology and Histopathology ESL
- Provide guidance and watch points for these services in spoke laboratories

NHS Digital – Unified Test List
- First 350 lines of code delivered
- NHS D working with NHE/I, PHE, RCPath
- Seeking prioritisation list for next cohort of tests
- Formal launch in April 2019 with next publication of SNOMED CT

Highlights:
- Networked provider demonstrating a 20% reduction on Cost per Test.
- Network purchasing saving £18m over life of contract.
- Provider removes consultant shortage issue by joining network.
- Digital Pathology and interoperable solution committed to by entire network.
- Existing networks expanding, and renewing commitment over longer periods
- Commitment extended into the Long Term Plan and People Plan
Questions?