

Addressing the quality and productivity challenge in

Pathology Services

A practical guide to delivering cost savings

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2010 76 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON

Topics include:

- Clarifying the crucial role of pathology in helping the NHS meet the Quality and Productivity Challenge
- Delivering large scale consolidation of pathology services
- Commissioning world class pathology services
- Tackling pathology workforce costs
- Using Lean Six Sigma methodology to deliver improvements in pathology quality and productivity



Keynote speakers include:

Kenny Rae

President Institute of Biomedical Science

Professor Gifford Batstone

*National Clinical Lead for Pathology
NHS Connecting for Health*

Dr Rachael Liebmann

*Assistant Registrar Royal College of Pathologists and
Clinical Director Kent and Medway Pathology Network*

Case Studies include:

- Reducing waste in the pathology pathway
- Delivering savings in laboratory medicine
- Making cash savings by managing increasing demand
- Improving productivity through local service reconfiguration

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The Pathology Programme is one of the 12 Wave One National Workstreams of the Department of Health's Quality and Productivity Challenge. This event gives you the opportunity to hear from key speakers who are delivering savings and provides delegates with an understanding of the strategies being used to achieve these.

"We have good pathology services in this country but we know – including from the evidence of Lord Carter's review – there are challenges to meet from changing demographics, rising demand and technological innovation. Lord Carter's work and the practical experience of NHS pathologists and staff have also demonstrated the potential to improve quality while streamlining the way pathology is organised and delivered. Laboratory medicine underpins healthcare and we are committed to ensuring a high quality, sustainable and innovative service for a 21st century NHS."

Sir Bruce Keogh, Pathology Programme 2009

Chaired by **Kenny Rae** *President* Institute of Biomedical Science, who opens the conference with an introduction to the day ahead, Kenny will introduce you to other key professionals in the pathology field who will deliver presentations on topics including consolidation of services; commissioning; and reducing workforce costs.

"Some pathology models have already been successfully reconfigured in order to deliver better quality, more efficient, more patient-focused services. This has clearly highlighted that, with the right approach, opportunities exist to improve quality and productivity across a broad range of delivery models."

Pathology Programme e-newsletter, Department of Health 2010

Throughout the day the conference provides the opportunity to network and learn from colleagues facing similar challenges. With a variety of topical speakers in the afternoon sharing their case studies, delegates will also take away practical tips and ideas to put into practice right away. Case studies topics include reducing waste in the pathology pathway; using visual management to deliver pathology improvement; and making cash savings by managing increasing demand.



10.00 **Chair's opening remarks**

10.10 **Clarifying the crucial role of pathology in helping the NHS meet the Quality and Productivity Challenge**

Professor Gifford Batstone
National Clinical Lead for Pathology
NHS Connecting for Health

- can NHS pathology services realistically deliver £500 million a year in efficiency savings by consolidating services, reducing waste and eliminating variation?
- aligning the pathology programme with national and local approaches to the Quality and Productivity Challenge
- using the Quality and Productivity Challenge as an opportunity to drive change in pathology
- understanding the options for reconfiguration, the related costs and potential savings
- recognising the added value service provide by pathology and its potential to save money by ensuring appropriate testing

10.40 **Delivering large scale consolidation of pathology services**

Dr Rachael Liebmann
Assistant Registrar Royal College of Pathologists and
Clinical Director Kent and Medway Pathology Network

- delivering locally coordinated action between clinicians, managers and commissioners
- exploring the role of the Pathology Programme, the National Pathology Forum and SHA local transformation boards in supporting local change
- creating a mentoring scheme to learn and provide support from Trusts that have already undergone service reconfiguration
- exploring the specific savings available through consolidation

11.10 **Commissioning world class pathology services**

Speaker to be announced

- recognising that pathology is a "golden thread" running through all care pathways
- understanding the intentions of commissioners around cost reduction
- exploring how commissioning pathology more effectively can deliver greater quality and productivity
- identifying the support required by PCTs and commissioners
- delivering the recommendations of the Review of Specialist Pathology Services

11.40 Questions and answers, followed by coffee and exhibition at 11.45

12.00 **Tackling pathology workforce costs**

Phil Hudson
Managing Director
Collinson Grant Healthcare

- is there an optimum skill mix for pathology services
- what would be the implications of a wide-scale shift to lower grade staff?
- developing flexible mechanisms to match capacity to demand
- how will Modernising Scientific Careers help?

12.30 **Using Lean Six Sigma methodology to deliver improvements in pathology quality and productivity**

Lesley Wright
Director – Diagnostics
NHS Improvement

- making the explicit link between process excellence and clinical excellence
- identifying practical ways of reducing turnaround time and improving quality and safety
- case study: Delivering the Cytology Screening Target ahead of schedule. How to identify opportunities for financial savings, supporting potential national savings of £18 million a year (Scharr report)
- translating the success in cytology to new histopathology and phlebotomy pilots

13.00 Questions and answers, followed by lunch and exhibition at 13.10

14.10 **Case study: Reducing waste in the pathology pathway**

Kevin MacLachlan
Laboratory Manager
St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

- using Lean thinking to streamline operations and make best use the available resources
- achieving a 50% reduction in MRSA and C. Diff turnaround time and delivering 90% in one day
- reducing inappropriate demand – delivering a 26% reduction in inappropriate urine samples
- improving productivity – absorbing a 34% increase in demand at no extra cost

14.40 **Case study: Delivering savings in laboratory medicine**

Dr Stuart Smellie
Consultant Chemical Pathologist
Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

- exploring which pathology tests may no longer be effective
- avoiding the unnecessary duplication of tests
- investing to disinvest – using appropriate testing to avoid the need for other expensive investigations
- exploring the savings available through the elimination of ineffective and inappropriate testing

15.10 Questions and answers, followed by tea and exhibition at 15.15

15.40 **Case study: Making cash savings by managing increasing demand**

Dr Richard Fink
Consultant Chemical Pathologist
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

- how to introduce demand control without upsetting your colleagues
- implementing computerised gate keeping – developing blocking rules to limit inappropriate testing
- the U&E, FBC and CRP pandemic – latest bulletin from the front line

16.10 **Case study: Improving productivity through local service reconfiguration**

Dr Tim James
Laboratory Manager – Biochemistry
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust

- delivering a cash releasing productivity gain through service redesign using new technology
- maximising the use of new automated testing platforms across different disciplines
- reducing median within-laboratory turnaround times
- enabling the efficient utilisation of staffing and equipment

16.40 Questions and answers, followed by close

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Venue

76 Portland Place, London, W1B 1NT. A map of the venue will be sent with confirmation of your booking.

Date

Wednesday 22 September 2010.

Conference fee

- £365 + VAT (£428.88) for NHS, social care, private healthcare organisations and universities.
- £300 + VAT (£352.50) for voluntary sector/charities.
- £495 + VAT (£581.63) for commercial organisations.
- £300 + VAT (£352.50) for IHM members.

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