

Monday 17 June 2024

Pathology – help them to help you Over 2000 non-conforming samples were received in the Pathology (Histology and Cytology) laboratory in 2023. The vast majority of these are **non-repeatable** samples and therefore the errors must be corrected before these samples can be processed and reported. In some cases, this can result in days of investigation by Pathology staff delaying the reporting of potential cancer diagnosis.

Approximately 780 hours of an Associate Practitioner (Band 4) time was spent contacting, investigating and amending mistakes that initiated out with the department e.g. in theatres, clinics, GP surgeries. The highest occurring errors are:

- no specimen details stated on specimen container
- specimen container leaking
- specimen not collected via Trak

The laboratory directorate [sample acceptance policy can be found on the intranet here](#) (networked devices only). However more critical errors also occur which can directly impact patient care:

- Samples and request forms labelled for the wrong patient (these are not known until a report is issued for the wrong patient)
- Incorrect labelling of site of the sample e.g. incorrect labelling of left and right breast cores could result on surgery or treatment in incorrect area.
- Sample with one set of patient details on request form and a different set on the specimen container, known as mismatched specimens.

All errors require correcting by the Pathology department before processing delaying specimen turnaround time. Individual teams taking an extra minute to check all patient and sample details could save 20 weeks' worth of pathology staff time. **Please carefully check all patient and sample details before sending, to ensure the pathology team can work efficiently and provide you with the results you need in good time.**

Do you know who you're talking to? Do not share any information (either in-person or over the phone/by email) if you are not sure who you are speaking to. It is ok to pause and check someone's identity; genuine callers will not object to you taking the time to confirm. If you're still not sure, end the call and check. It's better to ring someone back than to disclose information in error.

Preceptorship programme awareness sessions for AHPs We are running 4 awareness sessions for allied health professionals supporting newly qualified practitioners to raise awareness and understanding of the NQP Preceptorship programme. The awareness sessions are suitable for any AHPs supporting a newly qualified practitioner e.g. line manager, practice supervisor, Flying Start facilitator. The sessions are running on:

- Tuesday 18 June, 1.30-2.45pm
- Thursday 27 June, 9.30-10.15am
- Wednesday 17 July, 1.30-2.45pm
- Monday 22 July, 11-11.45am

[You can join any of the above sessions using this link](#). There will also be an introductory session for AHP newly qualified practitioners. Details to follow shortly.

Update to Hospital Antimicrobial Empirical Guidelines Please be aware that the following sections on the Right Decisions website have been updated or amended:

- Impetigo - local treatment recommendations removed and replaced with direct link to NICE Guideline 153: Impetigo: antimicrobial prescribing: [Impetigo | Right Decisions \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Cellulitis – changes to treatment duration, doxycycline now first line for patients with mild cellulitis and a penicillin allergy, added section on prevention of recurrent cellulitis: [Cellulitis | Right Decisions \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [MRSA decolonisation for adults, children and neonates](#) - new section
- [Pelvic Inflammatory Disease](#) - update to treatment options

There have also been updates to the primary care antimicrobial empirical guidelines for impetigo and MRSA decolonisation for adults, children, and neonates. Please refer to the relevant pages on the Right Decisions website for more information. If you are accessing these guidelines via the mobile Right Decisions app you need to have re-installed the toolkit: 'Antimicrobial prescribing: NHS Grampian, NHS Orkney and NHS Shetland' after 25 April 2024. Any queries, please email gram.antibioticpharmacists@nhs.scot

Research and development strategy and delivery planning workshop The research and development (R&D) department is organising a workshop from 10.30am-1pm on 25 June, taking place at the Suttie Centre. The objective is to bring all stakeholders together to start planning the delivery of [the R&D strategy 2024-29](#), approved at last week's board meeting. The workshop will be independently facilitated by the CSO innovation fellow and consultant psychiatrist Dr Priti Singh, and the lead nurse for research and practice development Dr Deborah Baldie. Register before 20 June by emailing gram.randd@nhs.scot. The nine concept notes on "shaping two new centres of UK-wide excellence by 2028" will be announced in this workshop. Announcement about these centres and future R&D events were published in the Daily Brief on 30 May.

Pause for thought How could you be a good friend to yourself? What now would you benefit from taking some time over?

Tune of the day Today's request comes from Sam Inglis, dedicated to her advanced clinical practitioner colleague Pauline. She's part of the City Visits team and went above and beyond recently when she helped a patient vacuum their house. For Pauline, [I Want To Break Free](#) by Queen (EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot