

Our Ref: GP/USERCOM/3

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Department of Haematology

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Dear Colleagues,

United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) Pathology Test Accreditation

The West of England Pathology network has collaboratively awarded a 15-year managed service contract for laboratory equipment as part of service improvement initiatives. This procurement process means that a large proportion of laboratory equipment will be changed at the RUH, NBT, UKHSA and UBHW Blood Science and Infection Science laboratories.

As part of the laboratory's ISO 15189:2012 UKAS accreditation, all tests must be validated or verified against every individual analyser used, to ensure results are accurate and reliable and that equipment is fit for purpose. As equipment is changing this means all laboratories will need to apply for extensions to current scope, to gain UKAS accreditation for the tests using the new analysers. The implementation of new equipment is being staggered across the network and as each test moves from "accredited" to "awaiting extension to scope assessment" status, the relevant Trust will indicate the status on their Pathology web pages.

We are working with UKAS and the extension to scope applications will be submitted as soon as practically possible. Please be assured we are utilising the same quality processes for the period our assays are not accredited, and results will remain accurate and reliable. The overarching quality management system will remain accredited by UKAS and all current quality processes will be followed during this time.

We appreciate your understanding during this time of transition. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant department.

Yours Sincerely,



Dave Fisher, Pathology Services Director



Michele Romaine Chair.
Maria Kane, Chief Executive.

A University of Bristol Teaching Trust.
A University of the West of England Teaching Trust.