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Pathology Department
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5th May 2023

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 and verified against every individual analyser used for those tests, to ensure results are accurate and reliable and that equipment is fit for purpose. As equipment is changing this means that all laboratories will need to apply for extensions to current accreditation scope, in order 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 current 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 that we are utilising the same quality processes for the period of time our assays are not accredited. Colleagues can be assured the 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 pathology department.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrian Brown
Deputy Head of Service
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston

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