



Brent
Clinical Commissioning Group

Update report to the Brent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Pathology transport

Pathology Courier Service

Background

The courier service was not part of the pathology service and was procured through a separate tendering process. The existing service provider was the successful bidder and the service continues to be provided by Reviscatch Limited (Courier Systems) who were appointed in October 2012 for a period of four years and seven months to tie in with the Pathology service.

Issue

Although not directly associated with the problems described in the RCA, transportation and delivery times appear to play a (seasonal) role in the variation of potassium levels; in that they add to the instability of the samples due to fluctuation in temperature during storage at the GP practice and or during transportation to the laboratory in both summer and winter.

In the only outstanding item from the RCA, Dr Patel co-author of the RCA and Clinical Responsible Officer (CRO) for pathology is leading a task and finish group which includes Courier Systems to;

- Create best practice for storage of samples guidelines for GP practices
- Pilot a hub and spoke process whereby bikes pick up from the practices and travel a far shorter distance to a hub where samples are transferred to a temperature controlled van for transportation to the laboratory.

The task and finish group intends to have the pilots working by the third week in October to ensure this covers the period of the winter months. The pilot will report its initial findings in February to the CCG Executive and then to the HOSC.

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