

Greater Manchester Pathology Network – Meeting Notes/Report

LAB 2 LAB Project Board Meeting
Monday 2nd March 2009 9.30am-11.30am
G54, One Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5BP

In attendance			Apologies	
Philip Bell	PB	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	Keith Hyde	CMFT NHS Trust/ GM Pathology Network
Neil Jenkinson	NJ	GM Pathology Network	Owen Johnson	X Lab Systems
David Money	DMo	Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Peter Walsh	GM ICT Project Board
Drew Morgan	DM	X Lab Systems		
Rachel Pearson	RP	GM Pathology Network		
Jeff Seneviratne	JS	GM Pathology Network		
David Slater	DS	Project Manager		
Allan Wilcox	AW	WWL NHS Foundation Trust		

Discussion Points

- **Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2008** - On page 2 under 'Any Other Business' – DM explained that the X-Lab servers are not ready as stated in the minutes but ready to be ordered. DM explained that the servers can be ordered as soon as the contract has been signed and can be set up and tested within three weeks of ordering. The minutes were otherwise accepted as a correct record.
- **Matters Arising** – NJ handed a signed copy of the contract to DM.
- **Project Timescales** – DS explained that these are dependent on the X-Lab servers being installed. DM agreed to provide DS with dates. JS suggested setting some milestones at the end of this meeting. DS explained that he was unable to produce a project plan until the timescales were clear and hoped that this would be in time for the next meeting of the Project Board in May 09. To facilitate this DS would be asking labs to notify him of any constraints they may have (e.g. SRFT upgrading hardware).
- **Project Finances** – NJ confirmed that Salford PCT have agreed to carry the funding into the next financial year. All labs who have ordered an iSOFT interface should recharge Salford PCT for this money, less VAT.
- **Interfaces** – DS gave updates as follows:
- **iSOFT** – DS reported that the Work Package Document and Functional Specification have now been signed off and circulated. The Work Package now includes the sending of block data for cellular pathology. A caveat has been inserted into the functional specification stating that 'in the light of the complexity of the project, the specification will be subject to review during the testing phase of the project'. DS explained that this will provide the flexibility to get the interfaces operational. DS explained that iSOFT have been to Leeds to work with X-Lab on testing the interfaces in the week commencing 16th Feb 09 and would be doing further testing on 3rd and 4th March 09
- DS explained that the following labs have agreed to take part in Phase 1 testing:
- Microbiology – Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport linking to MMMP for Chlamydia requests and results. DS explained that Alan Blackley at MMMP has been heavily involved in the development of the iSOFT specification.
- Clinical Chemistry - Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport linking to Leeds General Infirmary for Renin aldosterone and dihydrotestosterone requests and results. X-Lab has been testing with Leeds GI over recent months. DS argued that given the proximity of the X-Lab offices to Leeds GI and the fact that Stockport send samples to Leeds for the stated tests, it is appropriate that these labs are used in this phase of the project.
- DM reported that messages have successfully been sent from the test Telepath system to X-Lab. There is some debugging to do with MSM but DM felt that the interfaces should be signed off by the end of this week.
- DS explained the need for labs to ensure that their Telepath training environment mirrors the live environment.
- DS and DMo will be receiving training from X-Lab on 2nd April 2009.
- **Clinisys** – DS reported that he has had two meetings with Peter McCabe (Clinisys Account Manager) at which he clearly stated the Network's position that the CDM product was not wanted and that there is a limited amount of funding available for Clinisys interfaces (£40k). DS explained that Clinisys have held some internal meetings and have proposed that the CDM product be accepted, with a willingness to negotiate the cost. The advantages of this are that Clinisys would be responsible for the software and that there would be no development time as CDM is an off the shelf solution. JS questioned whether there would be any development time for direct interfaces and DS felt that the advantages were outweighed by the disadvantages (need to host CDM server, duplication of X-Lab functionality, CDM solution not yet operational elsewhere). PB felt that it was necessary to ascertain whether CDM is required and suggested that two interface engines may be unsupportable.
- JS felt that the CDM solution might be acceptable if there were not disadvantages in terms of cost (both capital and revenue). He felt that there must be a software specification for a direct interface, as is in use to link analysers to the LIMS and that Clinisys could share this with X-Lab.
- JS wondered whether a potential way forward would be for the Clinisys labs in GM to purchase analyser interfaces and use these for X-Lab. This may be made difficult by the fact the Clinisys own Data Innovations (analyser interface software).
- DS explained that he has also put pressure on Clinisys by reporting to them that testing of the iSOFT interface is underway. DS reported that Clinisys asked for a copy of the iSOFT specification which he refused to share given the confidentiality clause contained

within it and emphasised to members the confidential nature of the iSOFT documents that have been circulated. DS reported that Peter McCabe has also visited at least one Clinisys lab in Greater Manchester to promote the CDM solution.

- AW's impression from Clinisys was that the CDM product could only be used for referrals between labs with Clinisys LIMS in place, which would not meet the needs of the labs in Greater Manchester, where the majority of work is referred to labs with iSOFT LIMS. AW felt that as a user sending requests from the LIMS to CDM to X-Lab to the performing laboratory complicated the process and would make it more difficult to resolve any problems.
- DM explained that The Health Informatics Service (THIS) would be willing to host the CDM server. DS felt that if the Network chose this option, it would have to ensure that the server was for Greater Manchester labs only and that any other labs wishing to use it would have to seek GMPN's permission and come to some financial arrangement.
- DMO suggested raising the difficulties encountered with Clinisys through their National User Group. DS reported that he is due to have a conference call on 6th March 09 with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Project Board on how Greater Manchester are approaching the project and issues with Clinisys. JS felt that Clinisys are exploiting their position and that as an information system provider they have a responsibility to their customers to provide interfaces.
- JS suggested that Network should agree to meet again with Clinisys and ask them to explain the rationale for their approach. It was agreed that the IT managers from Bolton (David Lee), Wigan (Tim Winstanley) and Pennine (Neil McAuley/Gary Walton) should be involved in this meeting to raise any specific technical questions from the user perspective.
- **Technidata** – DS reported that email contact has now been made with James Boys, Regional Sales Manager, who has passed the request onto the Technical Services Manager. A meeting will be arranged between Technidata, X-Lab, GMPN and The Christie to discuss. DS will also be meeting with Mark Gillespie (Christie Lab IT Manager) to draw up referral routes for each discipline.
- **GMCHMD** – DS explained that there were no updates regarding this interface.
- **Project resources** – DS explained that as the project moves into the testing phase, the Network have agreed to fund extra resource for the project. David Money will working on the project in late March to assist labs during this critical phase. DS explained that DMO is knowledgeable on the iSOFT LIMS and this would complement his role by providing support to the labs.
- DS explained that he and DMO would be producing a document describing the laboratory requirements for testing by the end of March 09. In addition, X-Lab and iSOFT will be producing a technical document for setting up firewalls and interfaces prior to testing. DS reported that he has received another email from Janet Proctor (MRI) about the encryption/security of messages. DS agreed to ensure that these requirements are met. PB felt that if VPN is acceptable for access to hospital systems via the internet, the security requirements for L2L should be met.
- **Project Publicity** – DS explained that many laboratory staff are not aware of the project and felt that project team must ensure that all departments in their labs are kept informed of developments. To facilitate this, DS suggested developing a newsletter, which could be circulated on a quarterly basis to a wide range of stakeholders. JS suggested including some information from X-Lab in the newsletter and DM agreed to send a word document with the necessary information to DS. It was agreed that the first edition of the newsletter would include a position statement, current progress and next steps.
- **Data sharing agreements** – DS explained that he still needed to ensure that these are in place, and agreed to include this in the document detailing laboratory requirements. JS felt it would be beneficial to use a standard pro forma for agreements across the Network.
- **Issues** – DS explained that the iSOFT issues have now been addressed. DMO will be providing additional resource to support the labs but suggested there may be a resource issue within Trust IT departments.
- **Risks** – DS has reduced some of the risks and put comments against the others. DS explained that the risk 'iSOFT unable to support reflex reporting' would remain until the interfaces have been tested.
- DS explained that some of the risks identified would be covered by the caveat in the iSOFT functional specification.
- JS felt that the risk 'Clinisys – cannot support the transfer of Microbiology Culture and Sensitivity results' represented a major deficiency in the Clinisys offering.
- **Any Other Business** – there was none

Actions

- DM to provide DS with dates for installation of X-Lab servers.
- DS to arrange meeting with Clinisys and IT managers from Bolton, Wigan and Pennine
- DS to arrange meeting between Technidata, X-Lab, GMPN and The Christie.
- DS and DMO to produce document describing the laboratory requirements for testing by the end of March 09
- DM to send word document of X-Lab information to DS for project publicity newsletter

Recommendations to Pathology Network Board

- None

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 11th May 2009, 9.30am-11.30am, One Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5BP