

Greater Manchester Pathology Network – Meeting Notes/Report

LAB 2 LAB Project Board Meeting
Monday 13th July 2009 9.30am-11.30am
One Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5BP

In attendance			Apologies	
Owen Johnson	OJ	X Lab Systems	Phillip Bell	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
Laura Kidd	LK	GM Pathology Network	Keith Hyde	CMFT NHS Trust/ GM Pathology Network
Greg Rayner	GR	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	Neil Jenkinson	GM Pathology Network
David Slater	DS	Project Manager	David Money	Project Manager
Jeff Seneviratne	JS	(Chair) GM Pathology Network	Drew Morgan	X Lab Systems
Allan Wilcox	AW	WWL NHS Foundation Trust	Rachel Pearson	GM Pathology Network
			Peter Walsh	NHS Manchester
			Dave Warhurst	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

Discussion Points

- **Welcome and Introductions** – JS welcomed all members
- **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2009** - The minutes were accepted as a correct record.
- **Matters Arising** – The group discussed the actions from the previous meeting. The data sharing agreement framework is not on the agenda for this meeting but DS confirmed he is addressing this issue. All of DS's actions will be referred to under agenda items. JS confirmed that he had spoken with Ian Barnes and Gifford Batstone, and also met with Rick Jones of X-Lab on a recent visit to Leeds.
- **Network Strategy Group** – JS gave a brief overview regarding current developments within the Pathology community. JS explained about the feasibility study surrounding the 20% saving in efficiency and 20% improvement in quality. JS explained that items A – G under agenda item 4 will be the subject matter for most of the PAGs and all of the NAG meetings taking place in July and August. The Network Strategy Group information pack was circulated to the group.
- JS mentioned the DH Service Improvement bids and confirmed that the Network has placed expressions of interest for Clinical Leadership and Clinical Dashboards.
- GR enquired where the 20% saving in efficiency and 20% improvement in quality had originally come from. JS explained that the 20% is the challenge set by CE's and it fits with the Darzi and Carter recommendations. The CE's wanted a significant saving no more 'salami slicing'. In response the Network will undertake a feasibility study over the next 12 months.
- AW informed the group that Trafford is about to put Cellular Pathology out to tender. JS mentioned the draft letter from Mike Burrows (Chief Executive of Salford PCT) to his CE colleagues asking for a hold on all potential tender activity within Pathology services whilst the feasibility study is carried out.
- JS confirmed that Lab2Lab is still very important and plays an important part in quality. OJ confirmed that Lab2Lab will also deliver cost savings. OJ explained that Ashley Sykes (AS) at X Lab is working to establish quality and cost savings via data metrics. OJ offered to provide the Network with any information collated by AS.
- **Project - Pilot Testing** –
- **X-Lab software** – DS explained that so far the Chlamydia testing carried out between SHH and Microbiology at MRI is text block reporting. Initially for the first 2 days of testing there were no issues the interface was up and running. The interface between X Lab and iSOFT dropped. This issue has now been resolved. DS has asked for a green/red light system within the software to show that the interface is working/not working. DS went on to explain that the staff using the system and sending shipments are lower grade staff. If they cannot send shipments they need to be able to see that. Tameside would like to be involved in the pilot testing for numeric data. Tameside carry out the CA199 test for SHH. All software has been installed but difficulties were encountered trying to get the test out from SHH. Once these issues had been resolved there were issues as the Tameside end.
- DS suggested removing the bugs before involving any other users. Once completed South Manchester, Salford and Trafford could become involved. The group briefly discussed resource issues at the MRI and generally within labs.
- DS raised concerns around testing. The X Lab software is the issue as the numeric data would not be accepted back at SHH. JS commented that an issue had arisen around test being sent out from the sending lab as biochemistry, microbiology, haematology etc but needing to be taken in at the receiving lab as Immunology for example. The testing has highlighted that all labs work differently. DS commented that he is unhappy with the current reporting format. The next step will be for SHH to produce a paper report to see what it looks like on paper and then to look at GP requests and ward order comms.
- OJ explained that the numeric testing issues are caused by a bug in the software that cannot be reproduced and therefore eradicated. OJ explained that today all the Tameside lists were being re run and hopefully the bug can be isolated and removed.
- DS explained that he would like 2 different systems a test system and a live system. GR raised his concern that test systems and live systems never mimic each other.
- DS discussed an information governance issue that had arisen as a result of patient data being uploaded to X Lab. DS stressed that even though there had been issues and problems on the whole the project is progressing well. OJ confirmed his intention to solve the reporting issues around CA199 testing. The group discussed the issue around security. Currently all tests involve practice data so there is no issue. JS enquired as to whether the VPN is resilient. OJ confirmed he had met with the Health Informatics service network managers. OJ has the contact details of the 3 network managers from the trusts involved and is currently arranging to meet them.

- DS asked if the three trusts would need to make any changes to their servers/software. OJ confirmed some small changes would need to be made. JS commented that labs would need to liaise with X Lab to discuss their needs. DS and OJ confirmed this is already happening.
- OJ hoped to move away from software issues now but stated that he expected to encounter working practice issues.
- DS confirmed that he had given a Lab2Lab talk to the MRI Board meeting and had explained that they are missing out on opportunities with Lab2Lab and GP Order comms. DS is to return to the MRI Board with an update.
- **Interfaces** – DS gave updates as follows:
- **iSOFT** – The iSOFT software for apex is not ready yet and therefore Immunology at MRI cannot be included.
- **Clinisys** – DS explained to the group that he had emailed Peter McCabe Head of Clinisys. It seems that they are keen to get a resolution to the situation at the meeting on Thursday 16th July 2009.
- JS reminded the group he and NJ had met with Jim Goodier (JG) of Clinisys and JG had been keen to mention that Clinisys had signed an agreement through the CSE to be the supplier for all Pathology Services in the North West and North Anglia. JS had taken the opportunity to labour the point how disappointed the Pathology Network has been with Clinisys up to now in regard to Lab2Lab. JG promised to report this to the MD.
- DS stressed that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are having similar difficulties with Clinisys
- **Technidata** – DS felt it is more constructive to solve the Clinisys issues before moving onto Technidata.
- The group briefly discussed the labs that are outside the Lab2Lab reach such as the Willinck Lab at WWL and Meadway at The Christie.
- **Finances** – SHH and MRI have both received acceptance certificates from iSOFT. The contract states that 50% of payment is due upon installation and the balance on going live. Both MRI and SHH have signed their acceptance certificates and MRI has now received an invoice.
- JS confirmed that both sites have the money to pay and reiterated that it must be spent this financial year. JS reminded the group that the funding had come from the ICT Board and that JS will be asking the ICT Board again for their support with the GM wide LIMS system.
- **Newsletter** – DS asked the group for comments on the format of the draft newsletter. DS reminded the group that Lab2Lab is a high profile project and there is a lot of interest in general within the Network. The newsletter will enable members of the Network to see where we are up to with L2L. The group agreed the format.
- DS drew attention of the use of the iSOFT logo on page 3 of the newsletter and explained the intention to use the Clinisys and Technidata logos also. DS asked for the group's agreement to use the logos. It was decided not to use any of them as Clinisys and Technidata are not yet on board. DS agreed to remove all 3 logos. The newsletter is to be finished and circulated. OJ offered to send DS more X Lab information for use within the newsletter.
- **Issues & Risks** – DS confirmed all the issues and risks are on the L2L Risk register for the group to see.
- **Any Other Business** –
- DS explained that there will be a lull in the project from 25th July for 2 weeks as both he and Dave Money (DM) will be on annual leave.
- OJ mentioned that X Lab has been featured in the latest edition of Pathology Benchmarking News with specific mentions given to Greater Manchester L2L project.
- OJ agreed to send the X Lab text from the Pathology Benchmarking News article to DS.
- OJ also informed the group that X Lab has recently signed a contract with Connecting for Health to carry out NHS integration testing. The CFH may announce this shortly. The aim is for all information to go through the national integration centre within 50 days. This will therefore make all information Spine compliant. X Lab intend that in the future all information will automatically run through spine as a matter of course this will give the NHS all their volumetric data. OJ made it clear that nothing would be run through Spine without this group's approval.
- OJ also informed the group that X Lab are currently developing the National Pathology Catalogue. This will provide the basis for all tests across the UK. This will also eliminate risk number 1 on the GMPN L2L risk register. X Lab now has 6 – 7 full time members of staff and there is money coming from the DH for the National Pathology Catalogue. This means that the company is far more financially stable than it was a year ago. OJ confirmed X Labs intention to take on one more member of staff.

Actions

- OJ to provide DS with any quality and cost savings information collated by AS.
- SHH to produce paper report
- DS to remove logos, complete newsletter and circulate
- OJ to send Pathology Benchmarking News article text to DS

Recommendations to Pathology Network Board

- None

Date and Time of Next Meeting

- Monday 14th September 2009, 9.30am-11.30am, One Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5BP