

**Greater Manchester Pathology Network – Priority Action Group – Meeting Notes/Report**

Priority Action Group 1 – HER2  
 Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Boardroom, Innovation Forum, Salford, Manchester M6 6FP

| In attendance    |     |   | Apologies      |   |
|------------------|-----|---|----------------|---|
| Nick Bullough    | NB  | Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  | David Bisset   | Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Tr |
| Andrew Cotterill | AC  | Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust       | Angela Cramer  | The Christie NHS Foundation Trust       |
| Steve Downing    | SD  | AGM PCTs                                | Karen Graham   | The Christie NHS Foundation Trust       |
| Anthony Gledhill | AG  | Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust      | Miles Howe     | UHSM NHS Foundation Trust               |
| Laura Kidd       | LK  | GM PCTs                                 | Roger Hunt     | Stockport NHS Foundation Trust          |
| Rachel Pearson   | RP  | GM PCTs                                 | Keith Hyde     | GM PCTs                                 |
| Helen Scott      | HS  | WWL NHS Foundation Trust                | Neil Jenkinson | GM PCTs                                 |
| Daniel Smith     | DaS | Stockport NHS Foundation Trust          | David May      | Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  |
| Denise Smith     | DeS | Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Tr | Julie O'Brien  | Stockport NHS Foundation Trust          |
| Jeff Seneviratne | JS  | GM PCTs                                 | Mark Pearson   | Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Tr |
| Malcolm Timmins  | MT  | Stockport NHS Foundation Trust          | Angela Pledger | Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust           |
| Pat Willis       | PW  | Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Tr | Nick Telford   | The Christie NHS Foundation Trust       |
| Anne Yates       | AY  | Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust      | Sami Titi      | Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust       |
|                  |     |   | Tom Wilson     | Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  |
|                  |     |   | Andrew Yates   | Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust       |

**Discussion Points**

- AY welcomed the members and introductions were carried out
- **Minutes of meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009** – agreed as a correct record
- **Matters arising –**
- **Leica invitation to tour Newcastle laboratory** - AY confirmed Leica have not been contacted regarding the invitation to tour mainly due to the fact that Leica have been visiting labs within the GM region and carrying out demos. A Leica seminar is due imminently and it has been agreed that anyone who wants to visit the Newcastle laboratory can contact Leica directly.
- AY reiterated that at the last meeting the labs that wished to begin HER 2 testing had been asked to supply a start date. UHSM were not represented at today's meeting and LK agreed to chase for a date. AC confirmed that Pennine have submitted a business case to their Trust and are awaiting a decision. AC agreed to inform RP once a decision is reached and a start date is confirmed.
- **Cancer Network** - As it has been decided that it is no longer justifiable to restrict laboratories from HER 2 testing, it is hoped that the introduction and implementation of the GM Pathology Network quality standards will reassure the Cancer Network. JS and AY were to arrange a meeting but have not been successful as yet. SD confirmed that he has spoken informally to Susan Robinson and that the Cancer Network is aware of the decision and potential change to the number of HER 2 testing sites. SD agreed to arrange a formal meeting.
- **Priority Action Group Issues –**
- **Quality standards** – AY confirmed that the Review of Her2 testing in GM + Draft Quality Standards document has been ratified by the GM Pathology Network Board at the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009.
- **Christie Audit** – AC had given apologies for today's meeting. AY felt certain AC has received all outstanding information relating to the audit she performed earlier this year but she will contact AC to request her to confirm this.
- **Annual confirmation of compliance with QA standards** – A short questionnaire has been distributed by the GMPN to all laboratories that currently perform Her 2 work (Wigan, Bolton, Stockport, Christie and Salford). This requests the type of information normally requested by laboratories that refer work to other laboratories to comply with CPA standards. LK reminded the group that Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 was the last day for Trusts to submit their Quality Assurance standards. AY asked any Trusts outstanding to please respond. JS asked any labs that have an issue with providing this information to please contact the Network.
- **Local EQA scheme** – AY confirmed that as all labs involved in HER 2 testing within the GM region submit to the national EQA schemes and there is currently no need for a local EQA. The group agreed.
- **Funding Flows, Costs and Benchmarking** –SD explained that he is awaiting a decision from DH regarding tariff arrangements. SD will bring an options paper to the meeting in January 2010 for the group to take part in. SD confirmed that direct Her2funding is available for this year and labs can claim retrospectively from April 2009. SD also confirmed that funding for this financial year is on a cost per case basis (FSH £185 and HER 2 £60) not block payments. The tariff is currently being road tested and the results will be available mid December 2009. AY commented that group members need to return to their individual Trusts and flag up the potential change to funding arrangements which will require managing so that the Her2 funding is not "lost" to Pathology.

• **Any other business**

- **“Pathology Matters” Conference** – AY informed the group that this was a very interesting meeting, dedicated to Her2 related matters which also included feedback on national performance in the EQA schemes and a short presentation on the ongoing data analysis from the National Audit of Her2 testing/results. AY offered to circulate any meeting notes to the group should they become available.
- **North West Breast Screening Quality Assurance Study Day 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009** – AY encouraged members to attend or organise for a representative from their lab to attend.
- **IBMS CPD Certificates** – were available
- **Future of the Group** – JS asked the members of the group to consider future meetings and the possibility of this PAG group becoming part of the Histo/Cyto NAG. AY feels that the work of the PAG will naturally come to an end once the future of Her2 funding is clarified. The group discussed the possibility of the next meeting in January being the last. The group were asked to contemplate the potential of the PAG meeting perhaps bi-annually and on the same day as a HISTO/CYTO NAG. The group were also asked to consider the benefit of one of the meetings being a workshop or study day.
- **DAKO Herceptest – Quality Issues** – MT from Stockport enquired if any other labs were experiencing problems. Stockport has an ongoing problem which DAKO as yet have not resolved. AY informed the group that of 38 labs nationally that subscribe to the EQA scheme 22 have moved away from using DAKO Herceptest to other platforms such as Leica Oracle and others including in-house methods. HS from Wigan confirmed their lab is also experiencing issues with variation in Herceptest batches.

**Actions**

- LK to chase UHSM regarding the issuing of letters of intent including start dates
- AC to inform RP of Pennines start date
- SD to arrange meeting with the Cancer Network
- SD to bring options paper to January meeting
- Members to flag up potential changes re: funding to management within their Trust
- Members to send any outstanding Annual Quality Standards questionnaires to RP
- Members to think about future of the PAG group and discuss at the next meeting

**Recommendations to the Greater Manchester Pathology Network Board (if any)**

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 3.30pm – 5.00pm, One Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5BP