

# Bro Taf Local Medical Committee Ltd

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## BRO TAF LMC- CWM TAF UHB PATHOLOGY GROUP

### NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2015

The second meeting of the Bro Taf LMC – Cwm Taf UHB Pathology Group took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

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#### TRANSMISSION OF RESULTS TO PRACTICES

A number of practices have taken part in a pilot with the new GP links supplier (IUVO). A number of problems with data handling were identified in the pilot, a fix has now been developed and complete roll out to all practices will have been completed by the end of April 2015. Practices should note no change in the way that results are transmitted.

Concern was expressed at the first meeting of the LMC Pathology Group that batching of results had taken place causing staff, particularly non-clinical staff, difficulty in providing results to patients who ring or contact the practice to obtain results. There appeared to have been no consultation with local general practitioners, and it is unclear where any agreement about the change in transmission of results had come from. David Bailey of the GPC has been contacted, he believes that this is a local issue and is not aware that GPCW has formally signed off anything regarding a change about the transmission of results. He has suggested that the LMC raises a formal concern with the UHB in readiness for what is eventually planned to be an all-Wales system.

This relates to the current policy for batching test results whereby the tab display for results does not allow tests to be marked for action separately. The labelling of the tab display can be problematic for non-clinical staff in particular, because the tab heading for each set of results may be described as, for example, “serum electrolytes”, but in fact may contain many different types of results including renal profile, liver profile, lipids, etc.

We understood that various options were pre-tested on GPs and the conclusion was that batched results were preferred to single result reporting.

## **MICROBIOLOGY REPORTING**

LMC representatives have flagged up GPs' concerns about the reporting of MSSUs in terms of failure of the department to report sensitivity of identified organisms to antibiotics that have been prescribed and noted on the pathology request form. There is also continuing concern about the frequent "5-99 blood cells" comments. It has again been agreed that the Pathology Department will review these issues.

## **PATHOLOGY HANDBOOK LINK ON GPTR**

The "National Pathology Handbook" that can be accessed by GPs via label-trace TRRR tab is out of date. The pathology portal of the Cwm Taf Intranet is now up to date with relevant information about the Pathology Department, and as all practices should be able to access the Cwm Taf Intranet following migration of the GP clinical systems in Cwm Taf by the end of July, it was agreed appropriate to remove the National Pathology Handbook accessed via label-trace TRRR tab, and to populate the pathology portal with information that would be relevant to general practice including, for example, antimicrobial policies and any other policy documents that might be thought useful for those of us working in general practice.

## **CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL TESTS ADDED BY LABORATORIES**

This had been raised at the previous meeting, but Pathology had not come back with any views on this. The concern raised is about who has ongoing clinical responsibility for investigations that have been added to test requests from general practice without prior reference back to the original request. Medical defence organisations will be asked for their advice and the matter will be discussed at the Pathology Department governance group.

## **ZERO TOLERANCE ON REQUESTING**

A zero tolerance policy will apply equally to both requesting from primary and secondary care in the future. GP practices will be informed of when the policy is to be implemented and practices will be advised, following a specified period of grace, how they can improve their practice.

## **H-PYLORI TESTING**

In accordance with the advice of the British Infection Association and the Health Protection Agency, the group agreed with the recommendations of the Microbiology Department in terms of testing for Helicobacter Pylori - using only stool Helicobacter antigen test, and not using blood serology (the serology test having lower accuracy and failure to differentiate between active and previous infection).

The next meeting of the Bro Taf LMC – Cwm Taf UHB Pathology Group will be held in September 2015. If any colleagues in primary care have issues that they would like to raise, please contact the LMC office in advance of the meeting.