

GPchoice

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Order Communication System revolutionises Laboratory and Radiology test reporting for GPs

As part of a new scheme, three local pilot GP practices have now started to order their Laboratory and Radiology tests and receive their results via the Anglia ICE Order Communications System (OCS).

The ICE system allows GP practices to order most of their Pathology and Radiology requests online without the need to complete hand written forms. This major clinical governance improvement provides printed labels and request forms, affording greater accuracy when recording patient details. Once the electronic request has been generated, blood can be taken wherever patients normally

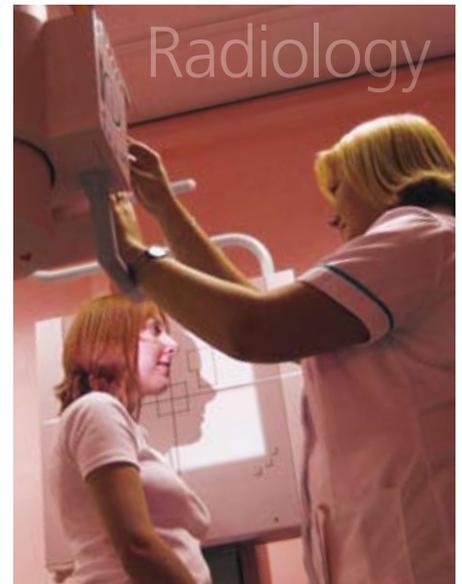
go to have their blood taken (e.g. at their GP surgery, the Phlebotomy unit at Rotherham Hospital or the Phlebotomy unit at the new Primary Care Centre). Radiology examinations can be undertaken within 24 hours and urgent cases can be carried out on demand at Rotherham Hospital.

Benefits of the system

The ICE system facilitates exceptional data quality and enables GPs to view all patients' results including those recently requested and those that were performed while the patient attended the hospital as an outpatient or an inpatient. GPs will still be able to receive results via the current system, but this will only allow access to those results specifically requested (i.e. not the hospital based requests).

Further implementation of this service

This service is fully functional at two of the three pilot sites, including the St Ann's Medical Centre and The Village Surgery, Thurcroft. These practices are now ordering most of their tests electronically and the hospital is in the process of rolling out the system to a further five practices in the local area. Once implementation is complete, the hospital will be contacting the remaining practices with the aim of introducing Anglia ICE to all the Rotherham GP practices by the end of 2009. By this time the vast majority of Pathology and Radiology test results



will be delivered electronically and the few paper results currently produced will cease.



Speaking about the service, Keith McMillan, General Manager for Laboratory Medicine, said: "The ICE system is a major step forward in preventing errors and in providing GPs with timely access to all your patients' results, regardless of where the request was generated. Full training will be provided and we will tailor the training to your needs and those of your staff."

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Laboratory

New consultant joins the Oral and Maxillofacial team



Mr Alan Patterson
Consultant Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgeon

Rotherham Hospital would like to welcome Mr Alan Patterson, who has recently joined the hospital's Oral Maxillo Facial Surgery department. Mr Patterson joined the team at the beginning of February and will be working alongside Mr Holt and Mr Crosher.

Prior to joining Rotherham Hospital, Mr Patterson completed the Yorkshire regional specialist registrar training scheme after holding junior surgical and medical posts in Sheffield.

Mr Patterson told GP Choice: "My subspecialty interests include head and neck cancer as well as salivary gland disease. I'm delighted to be joining the team and look forward to further developing oral maxillo facial surgery as well as head and neck cancer services for local patients" ●

New fast track neck lumps service reduces wait to one week



Judith Lunn, Head and Neck Specialist Nurse and Mr Richards interview a patient

We would like to take this opportunity to inform GPs of a new service, which will provide exceptional benefits for patients with a neck lump.

Led by Mr Stuart Richards (Locum ENT surgeon and head and neck cancer lead) and his team in radiology and pathology, this innovative fast track service will be available for all patients with neck lumps including thyroid, lymph node and salivary glands.

Benefits for patients

Currently, ENT patients are mainly referred through the two week wait scheme. At their first appointment, they are given a head and neck examination including flexible fiberoptic laryngopharyngoscopy to assess the upper aerodigestive tract. Fine needle aspiration of the lump is performed and ultrasound of the neck arranged at a separate appointment. Once testing has taken place, patients must then wait until the results are made available, around two to three weeks later.

Under the new fast-track service, the head and neck team will reduce this waiting time to just one week from first appointment to results of all tests. Clinical examination and ultrasound will be undertaken on Wednesday morning with follow up taking place the following Thursday.

Speaking about the enhanced service, Mr Richards said: "We're pleased and proud to be offering this new service, which will reduce the number of hospital visits for patients by providing a radiology and outpatient visit in the same morning, and significantly reduce waiting time for results. We hope to reduce anxiety experienced by patients waiting for their results and aim to ensure the fastest possible service for cancer patients."

Accessing the service

Referral to the new service will be through the two week wait system. GPs should simply ensure the neck lump box on the head and neck proforma is ticked ●



Mr Stuart Richards

Rapid Access Child Health Clinic

The Child Health team at Rotherham Hospital would like to remind GPs of the Rapid Access Outpatient Clinic for paediatric referrals. The main aim of the clinic is to provide a prompt service for those children and young people aged up to 16 presenting with a non-emergency condition, but who cannot wait for a routine clinical appointment.



Dr Mahajan

'the clinic offers quick access and high quality care to our patients'

The clinic offers same or next day appointments and is held daily from 1.30pm to 3.00pm (with the exception of bank holidays and the fourth Friday of each month). Children referred are seen by a consultant paediatrician or middle grade doctor under direct supervision of the consultant.

GPs should contact 01709 307530 to make an appointment and then advise the patient of the date and time. Referral letters should then be faxed to 01709 307554, or passed to the patient to bring into hospital. Following the appointment, a clinic letter will be sent to the GP and parents detailing the outcome of the consultation.

Speaking about the service, Dr Mahajan, Clinical Director for Child Health said: "The Rapid Access Clinic is an exemplary service, which offers quick access and high quality care to our patients. This service is greatly valued by our local GP colleagues and I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all GPs of the clinic and its benefits."

For more information on this service, please contact Michelle Harper-Crouch, Children's Clinic Manager on 01709 307530 ●



Mother and daughter enjoy reading a story book in the clinic's cheerful waiting area

Rotherham at the heart of European research



Rotherham Hospital has recently broken new ground by being contracted to the European Union to execute two high technology research projects, REMINE and the "Point of Care Monitoring and Diagnostics for Autoimmune Diseases" (POCEMON) project.

The REMINE project aims to develop a risk management platform toward managing risk against patient safety.

The project is carried out by a team of partners spanning a number of disciplines throughout Europe. Included in the project are several hospitals who are involved in the design and evaluation of the system, and who will also act as pilot sites in later stages of the project.

The POCEMON project brings together partners from throughout Europe in a bid to develop both the hardware and software components of a multi-purpose diagnostic platform. The project is designed to integrate a number of state of the art biomedical, engineering and IT advances to create a portable device and linked information systems which will provide a real time genetic assessment of patient susceptibility to Rheumatoid Arthritis and Multiple Sclerosis at the point of care, which could be in a primary, secondary or tertiary healthcare setting.

The 8.4M Euro project involves a total of 18 prominent research institutes, universities, companies and hospitals from many EU countries, ranging from Greece to Scandinavia. The project will define the genetic markers associated with these diseases and then use this information to create a customised silicone chip that will identify the presence of these markers in a DNA sample. This information will be remotely processed to define the probability of the development of the disease, taken together with other non-genetic factors. This could speed diagnosis and eventually pave the way for rapid selection of the most appropriate drug or other therapy for that individual patient.

The hospital's role is to provide access to clinical advice to the project and ensure availability of suitable samples through the various stages of development, as well as field testing and evaluation.

The project group is being led by Dr Mary Holt, Consultant Rheumatologist and has served to bring together colleagues from a number of disciplines and organisations to support the research effort. Rotherham Hospital has worked closely with Sheffield Hallam University, one of the local partners involved with the delivery of the project. The hospital would also like to gratefully acknowledge the support of local Rotherham General Practitioners, who have provided advice to the project and looks forward to collaborating with more GPs as the project moves towards the testing stage ●

Extended opening hours in Phlebotomy

Rotherham Hospital's Phlebotomy unit now opens at an earlier time of 7.30am on three days per week as part of a recent trial. Now on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the unit opens an hour earlier for patients with booked appointments.

This extended service is designed to improve the quality and convenience for patients, allowing them to book an appointment at a time to suit them, often prior to going to work. The earlier slots are currently only available to patients who have pre-booked an appointment,

although the phlebotomy unit will endeavour to accept non-booked patients as well, who would normally have to wait until the usual opening time of 8.30am.

Speaking of the extended service, Keith McMillan, General Manager for Laboratory Medicine, said: "The trial period will continue until the end of April, after which, we will be reviewing the take-up of the earlier slots before we look at the possibility of offering these earlier appointments on a permanent basis.

"To improve our service to patients, and to offer them a greater degree of flexibility, we kindly request that GPs encourage patients to call our appointment line on 01709 304397. Booking an appointment reduces waiting times for patients, as they are seen within 10 minutes of their booked time."

Until 30th April 2009 the Phlebotomy unit at RGH will be open:

Monday	07.30 - 16:45
Tuesday	08.30 - 16:45
Wednesday	07.30 - 16:45
Thursday	08.30 - 16:45
Friday	07.30 - 16:45



Order Communication System Continued from page one



John Beeston, General Manager for Clinical Radiology and Medical Physics added: "This is an exceptional service, which will facilitate speedier radiology test reporting for GPs."

For further details of the Order Communications System, please contact Keith McMillan, General Manager for Laboratory Medicine on 01709 304023 or email keith.mcmillan@rothgen.nhs.uk or John Beeston, General Manager for Clinical Radiology and Medical Physics on 01709 304362 or email john.beeston@rothgen.nhs.uk

An information pack, detailing the full suite of Radiology services at Rotherham Hospital, will be sent to you shortly. ●

Cataract waiting times at an all time low at Rotherham and Barnsley General Hospitals

In line with the Trust's aim to reduce waiting times, the Ophthalmology team is delighted to report that waiting times for cataract surgery have been significantly reduced. In most cases, the majority of patients now referred for cataract surgery are treated in just 2-3 weeks!

Speaking about the reduction in waiting times, Mr Jabir, Clinical Director for Ophthalmology said: "The team has worked exceptionally well to considerably reduce waiting times for our patients and we're extremely pleased to have achieved our main objective well ahead of schedule" ●

choose and book Update



There have been some recent changes to Choose and Book. These are national changes following consultation with the National Specialty Leads and are as follows:

- **Colorectal – Speciality – GI & Liver** (Medicine & Surgery)
(previously Hepato-Gastroenterology)
Clinic Type – Colorectal Surgery or Inflammetry Bowel Disease.
- **Biliary – Speciality – GI & Liver** (Medicine & Surgery)
(previously Hepato-Gastroenterology)
Clinic Type – Gallstones or Upper GI including Dyspepsia.
- **Upper GI (Surgery) – Specialty – GI & Liver** (Medicine & Surgery)
(previously Hepato-Gastroenterology)
Clinic Type – Upper GI including Dyspepsia.
- **Upper GI (Medicine) – Specialty – GI & Liver** (Medicine & Surgery)
(previously Hepato-Gastroenterology)
Clinic Type – Upper GI including Dyspepsia.

Cardiology now has a new clinic type – Ischaemic Heart Disease.

Surgery – Vascular also has a new clinic type – Arterial.

In Diabetic Medicine 'Not Otherwise Specified' clinic type has been renamed – General Diabetic Management.

January 2009

Look how many Rotherham General Hospital waiting times (in days) are the shortest in South Yorkshire – they are highlighted in **green**.

O/P = Outpatient Appointments
D/C = Day Case Appointments
I/P = Inpatient Appointments

			Cardiology	Dermatology	ENT	Gastroenterology	General Medicine	General Surgery	Gynaecology	Neurology	Obstetrics	Oral Surgery	Ophthalmology	Paediatrics	Rheumatology	Trauma & Orthopaedics	Urology
South Yorkshire Providers	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	O/P	-	24	18	27	21	18	15	-	-	25	13	10	20	13	14
		D/C	-	27	27	17	17	14	5	-	-	14	15	18	21	19	16
		I/P	-	-	22*	-	15	26	40	-	-	12	-	-	-	57	16
	Barnsley NHS Foundation Trust	O/P	24	39	24	25	19	16	11	-	-	13	-	16	19	32	21
		D/C	31	-	26	19	42	51	45	-	-	41	-	-	-	34	17
		I/P	-	-	24	-	-	66	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	18
	Doncaster & Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust	O/P	-	22	21	-	15	-	13	-	18	19	18	14	28	20	13
		D/C	-	-	52	-	29	37	62	-	-	45	57	-	-	63	87
		I/P	-	-	55	-	28	52	68	-	-	69	-	-	32	70	54
	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	O/P	14	33	25	22	-	-	-	-	-	36	23	-	25	28	-
		D/C	33	48	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	61	-
		I/P	53	7	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	56	-	-	-	118	-