

## ABOUT US

### **Integrated Pathology Partnerships**

Integrated Pathology Partnerships (iPP) was established in 2010 to work in partnership with the NHS to deliver transformed pathology testing services in the UK. iPP now conducts more than 25 million tests per annum and employs over 650 staff across nine sites in the UK.

iPP was specifically established to enable UK healthcare organisations to strengthen the quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of their pathology services.

The combined operational expertise and scientific leadership of iPP equip it to be a strategic partner to both the NHS and independent healthcare providers. We can assist a wide variety of healthcare providers and commissioners in meeting the challenges of quality, cost and rising demand in UK pathology services.

iPP is a team with a proven track record and unrivalled credentials. It is the first company to truly demonstrate the improvements that can be delivered through a hub and spoke model. iPP also has the unique expertise of being able to deliver transformation in a fast and efficient manner whilst maintaining and enhancing the existing pathology operations. The principle of making a positive difference to patient care is at the heart of our business ethos.

iPP offers a full range of diagnostic tests and services ranging from phlebotomy, routine and urgent tests through to the launch of cutting-edge molecular diagnostics. Since its inception, iPP has formed joint venture partnerships with four NHS Foundation Trusts in Taunton, Yeovil, Mid and South Essex and the Christie in Manchester. Joint venture partnerships ensure that the service remains governed by clinicians and senior executives from the hospital Trusts and ensure that the service meets the demands of its customers from primary care through to A&E. In addition, we work in close collaboration with GP stakeholders to improve service delivery including improved access to community testing, point of care testing and phlebotomy.

iPP is part of the Synlab Group which offers laboratory services across 35 countries. Within the UK, the Group has recently expanded into the specialist food, drug and alcohol testing sector through the acquisition of Synergy Health Laboratory Services (including Genon Laboratories) in Yorkshire and Abergavenny, Wales.

### **Pathology First**

Pathology First is iPP's second joint venture collaboration. It was formed in 2014 in partnership with Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust. Pathology First delivers full laboratory services to a population of 750,000 patients and over 100 GP practices in the South East.

Pathology First brings together the skills and experience of its partners and their parent companies to strengthen the quality, delivery and efficiency of pathology services, providing:

- Modern, refurbished, central laboratory in Basildon which opened in February 2016.
- New, state of the art equipment;
- Optimised layouts that ensure the most efficient use of time and resources;
- Industry tested, robust IT systems that are fully integrated and utilised between laboratories and referral sites; and
- Deployment of international best working practices that deliver efficiency savings.

Pathology First operates a robust, clinically led and integrated governance structure to deliver services across multiple trusts. Our quality management system ensures our analytical procedures are of the highest quality. Like iPP, the principle of making a positive difference to patient care is at the heart of the Pathology First business ethos. We are committed to fully supporting pathology as a world class discipline that plays a key role in meeting the NHS goals of clinical integration and patient pathways.

The laboratory is registered by the Health Care Professions Council as a training laboratory and regularly undergoes inspections by accreditation agencies including UKAS (using the ISO15189:2012 standards), the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

In the past with CPA, accreditation was conferred on the whole laboratory (or department) and all the tests carried out within that laboratory. However with UKAS, using the ISO 15189:2012 standards, it is tests that are accredited not laboratories. Therefore any changes to test or analyser platforms or the addition of new tests that occur between UKAS assessment visits may result in the test no longer be accredited until it has been assessed. As a result of this a patient report may contain a mixture of accredited and non-accredited results

Pathology First aims to be clear and transparent to all users as to the accreditation status of the tests they request and this information can be found on the Schedules of Accreditation that appear on the UKAS website. Below is a link to the UKAS website and also to the Pathology First Policy on Accreditation Status which explains this in more detail and also describes how to access the Schedules of tests that are currently UKAS accredited.

<https://www.ukas.com/search-accredited-organisations>

[Pathology First Policy for the Notification to Users of UKAS Accreditation Status](#)

Pathology First services are provided from Southend and Basildon Hospital and a Hub Laboratory. There is a single IT system and regular courier service operating between all sites.