

## ABOUT US

### Pathology First

Pathology First LLP (trading as Pathology First) is a commercial Joint Venture between two parties: Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSE) comprising Southend University Hospital (SUH), Basildon University Hospital (BUH), Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford and iPP Analytics Limited (iPP) – a wholly owned subsidiary of Synlab UK & Ireland.

Pathology First is SynLab's second joint venture collaboration and provide an end-to-end Pathology service, inclusive of both analytical testing and clinical advisory services, to two Hospitals within MSE (these are Basildon and Southend hospitals) and Primary Care providers in South Essex as well as a service to other public and private qualified providers. Please note the pathology service provided to Broomfield Hospital or it's associated Primary Care providers is not part of this Joint Venture. The Laboratories deliver full laboratory services to a population of 750,000 patients and over 100 GP practices in the South East, this includes, when required sending samples outside of our test repertoire to referral laboratories.

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 SynLab, 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 ISO15189:2022 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 15189:2022 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.