

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 three 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 also specialises in the drug and alcohol testing sector through the acquisition of Lextox in Cardiff and Synlab Laboratory Services in Abergavenny, Wales.

Southwest Pathology Services

Formed in 2012, Southwest Pathology Services (SPS) is a joint venture between IPP and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. The partnership serves a population of around 500,000 and delivers services to the two hospitals and more than 80 GP practices.

SPS operates over three sites:

- Hub Laboratory (Lisieux Way, Taunton) – Primarily performs non urgent testing from Primary Care, Hospital Outpatients and community/mental health providers across Somerset for Blood Sciences and all infections sciences samples. Diagnostic Cytology and Andrology are also performed at the Hub Lab
- Musgrove Park Hospital Essential Services Laboratory (MPH ESL) – Acute Blood Sciences, Transfusion, Urgent Respiratory Testing, Out of Hours Microbiology (24/7) and Histopathology
- Yeovil District Hospital Essential Services Laboratory (YDH ESL) - Acute Blood Sciences, Transfusion (24/7) and Urgent Respiratory Testing, Histopathology

SPS 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 Taunton which opened in March 2012
- 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.

Southwest Pathology Services operates a robust, clinically led and integrated governance structure to deliver services across multiple hospital sites. 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 Southwest Pathology Services 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/assessments by agencies including:

- UKAS against ISO15189 medical laboratory standards. See link below showing the current Accreditation Schedule - [Link](#)
- Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) – via yearly compliance reports covering the blood banks at Musgrove Park and Yeovil District Hospitals.
- Regulated by Care Quality Commission (CQC) – Latest inspection reports can be found on the CQC website as follows:
 - Hub Laboratory [Building Three – Care Quality Commission \(CQC.org.uk\)](#)
 - MPH ESL [Musgrove Park Hospital – Care Quality Commission \(CQC.org.uk\)](#)
 - YDH ESL [Yeovil District Hospital – Care Quality Commission \(CQC.org.uk\)](#)
- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) – Category 3 laboratory at the Hub Laboratory