

NHS England and NHS
Improvement

Skipton house
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

nhsi.pathservices@nhs.net

24th October 2019

Dear Colleague,

HEE Training support for Histopathology advance practice qualifications

Across England there is a recognised shortage of medical consultants working in Pathology. Although much work has been undertaken recently to ensure that pathology is an attractive career choice there is still much to do to close the gap in vacancies that leads to backlogs and delays in reporting patient results.

The adoption of advanced roles by Biomedical and Clinical Scientists within pathology services is an accepted way of ensuring that we utilise our workforce effectively whilst maintaining patient safety, quality and reducing reporting backlogs. Since the introduction of such qualifications, there has been a limited uptake of these roles in Histopathology, but no shortage of need or willingness for individuals in departments to train for these roles.

The professional bodies (RCPath and IBMS) have developed a number of advanced qualifications within Histopathology to support roles in cut-up and in specific areas of reporting which will enable senior scientific staff to undertake a greater range of activities, supporting patient care.

As part of the wider transformation work that is being enabled through the introduction of Pathology networks in England it is important that future services have adopted advanced scientific roles as part of the clinical team undertaking dissection and specific areas of reporting. In recognising this requirement Health Education England have agreed to fund the training costs for a limited number of individuals to undertake this recognised training.

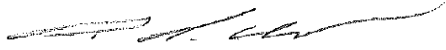
We are therefore inviting applications for funding support from the pathology networks. HEE will support the training costs for two individuals per NHS Improvement recognised network to undertake one of the recognised training programmes offered by the IBMS/RCPath. Trusts within networks should agree in advance of applications to ensure no more than 2 applications per network are made in the spirit of network working.

To express an interest, please email nhsi.pathservices@nhs.net with details of the candidates, the advanced course chosen, confirmation that they meet the course requirements, the NHSI network and employing Trust. This information needs to be submitted by 25th November 2019.



It is anticipated that these roles will be key to helping make sure patients continue to have access to high quality services in the networks of the future and should be seen as a step towards closer working across networks. If you have any questions please contact the pathology team on the above email or your NHS England and Improvement regional diagnostic implementation lead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wells', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Wells

Head of Pathology Consolidation

Diagnostics Services

NHS England and NHS Improvement