

Potential Royal College of Pathologists & NHS England Alert:

Standardising reporting of pathology results

Standardisation of how pathology tests results are reported is critical to patient safety, as without standardisation there is a risk that data will be misinterpreted by healthcare staff, especially when patients or staff move between healthcare organisations using different units of measurement.

NHS England and the Royal College of Pathologists propose issuing an Alert that directs providers to ensure timely updates to maintain standardisation and to manage risks that could occur during transition from locally used units of measurement to standardised ones. Comment on the draft Alert is sought from suppliers of pathology systems and those with leadership and governance roles related to reporting of pathology results.

Q1	Yes	Not sure	No
Do you support the issue of an Alert on this topic?	x		

Q2	Yes	Not sure	No
Do you consider the actions required in the Draft Alert are clear, feasible, and appropriate?	x		

Q3	Yes	Not sure	No
Do you believe the actions required in the Draft Alert could have any unintended consequences or introduce new risks?	x		

Q4	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months	Not sure
What would be a challenging but realistic timescale for completing the actions required in the Draft Alert?				x	

Please provide any further comment or advice to explain or expand on your answers:
<p>The Institute of Biomedical Science fully supports the intent of the Alert.</p> <p>Q1 Suggest including CCG and other 3rd sector providers and Governance leads</p> <p>Q2 – We would recommend being clearer on what action 4 “establish systems....” means and how achievement would be measured. There should be a specific action on communication of changes and establishing to whom, and what action they should take.</p> <p>Q3- If communication is not made to end users then updates may not be obvious and or clinical guidelines/protocols risk not being updated to incorporate changes.</p> <p>Q4 – Answer based on getting the AKI algorithm implemented nationally.</p>

Please send your completed form to Gifford.Batstone@nhs.net by 14 April 2015