

Press Release

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Start

IBMS welcomes DH Pathology Quality Assurance review launch

The Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) has welcomed yesterday's announcement of the Department of Health's (DH) review of quality assurance arrangements for NHS pathology services.

NHS Medical Director, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, confirmed that the review will be led by Dr Ian Barnes, National Clinical Director for Pathology and will scrutinise NHS arrangements for the oversight and safeguarding of laboratory testing.

Laboratory tests are essential to the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of chronic and life threatening conditions. Over 70% of diagnoses within the NHS are based on test results provided by laboratory services, supporting the provision safe and effective patient care.

IBMS President Derek Bishop welcomed the opportunity to strengthen quality assurance systems for NHS pathology: "The IBMS will be delighted to have this opportunity to offer expert guidance on the appropriate staff qualification levels and safe working practices to ensure patient safety. While adverse incidents in NHS laboratories are rare, patients need assurance about the quality of laboratory testing and quality of individuals providing laboratory services.

The IBMS is committed to working with the Department of Health to review quality assurance arrangements for NHS pathology and help shape DH recommendations to the NHS Commissioning Board. Our experience in providing registration, regulation and a competency framework to support our members in delivering safe, high quality care means we are ideally placed to contribute to Dr Ian Barnes' review".

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Editor's notes:

The Institute of Biomedical Science is the professional body for biomedical scientists in the United Kingdom. With over 20,000 members it aims to promote and develop the role of biomedical science within healthcare to deliver the best possible service for patient care and safety. www.ibms.org

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