

One Dorset Pathology latest network to adopt a single LIMS from CliniSys

WinPath Enterprise will replace ageing IT at three trusts, support the development of a pathology hub and spoke service, improve the availability of test results for clinicians and patients, and lay the foundations for a wider pathology network

Pathology services across one of England's most advanced health economies are to use a single laboratory information system (LIMS) from CliniSys.

One Dorset Pathology, which covers the three acute trusts within the Dorset Integrated Care System (ICS), which serves a population of around 800,000 people, will deploy WinPath Enterprise - a 'next generation' LIMS designed to meet the specific needs of pathology networks.

The new LIMS will replace the 20-year-old pathology systems that are currently in use at the trusts and support the creation of a state-of-the-art pathology hub.

The LIMS will be fully integrated with CliniSys' order communications solution, ICE, to create an end to end workflow for ordering and conducting tests, while the creation of a single lab system will make it easier for clinicians to access the results from any hospital or GP practice.

The contract has also been structured so that it lays the foundations for a group of hospital trusts in Hampshire and Wiltshire, known as Southern Counties Pathology, to use the same integrated pathology IT service in the future.

Stephen Harding, head of service at One Dorset Pathology, said: "The new CliniSys LIMS is a significant enabler of the transformations we are looking to achieve.

"It would be difficult to run a consolidated testing service without a single LIMS, because our hub and spokes need to use the same processes and communicate effectively with each other.

"By having a single system, we will also be able to open-up results across the network, so that patients who have tests in one hospital will have the results available if they go to another hospital. That will be a significant benefit and will significantly improve patient care and safety across the county."

Dorset has three acute foundation trusts: The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals, Dorset County Hospital, and Poole Hospital. They have been working on a One NHS in Dorset vision for some years - initially as an acute care collaboration vanguard and more recently as an integrated care system.

As part of their work, and following Lord Carter of Coles' report recommending the move to hub and spoke processing models, the three trusts agreed to set up One Dorset Pathology in 2016.

Following the proposal to form 29 pathology networks in England from NHS Improvement, One Dorset Pathology was credited with being the first new pathology network to launch a procurement for a common LIMS when it went out to tender the following year. The procurement concluded last summer, with the network deciding to take WinPath Enterprise as a hosted solution.

One Dorset Pathology is now working with CliniSys to develop a roll-out plan for the system, based on the company's extensive experience in delivering technology for pathology networks.

The LIMS is likely to be deployed as a single activation rather than a site by site go-live over the next 18 months. "This is a major change, so we will be working hard to engage our clinicians and train them in the system and new ways of working," Harding said.

"However, we are confident they will see that the processing systems the LIMS supports will be far more user-friendly and streamlined than our previous systems. We will no longer need the workarounds that we have to make use of now, just to make things happen.

"An important immediate benefit will be that we will have far better data on what is happening across our labs. At the moment, we have to run queries overnight, whereas CliniSys comes with visualisation tools and dashboards built in.

"We are also planning to replace all of our analytical equipment, and CliniSys will support the transition to our chosen analytic platforms as well."

The Dorset ICS has a clear vision centred around integrated care, which in the longer-term, will involve significant reconfiguration of local services, and the pathology network will support these changes.

All three trusts within One Dorset Pathology and all but one of the six trusts within Southern Counties Pathology have deployed CliniSys ICE to allow local GPs and some hospital wards to order tests electronically. The integration between ICE and WinPath Enterprise will mean that the two systems will work together seamlessly.

Test results are already reported electronically, but the creation of a single system will make it easier for clinicians to access a single, patient-centred view of the results, irrespective of where they were conducted. This should reduce the need for clinicians to order duplicate tests as patients move around the system, improving efficiency and patient safety.

Kevin Watts, regional business director, CliniSys, said: "CliniSys is the only dedicated pathology IT provider with deep expertise in the complexity of NHS pathology network requirements working in the market today.

"This expertise, the quality of our solutions and our track record enables us to deliver to the standards set by the emerging pathology networks for the benefit of clinicians and patients alike.

"It is great to see this recognised by One Dorset Pathology and we are now looking forward to working in partnership with them on what is going to be an exciting transformational journey for their newly formed pathology network."

About One Dorset Pathology

One Dorset Pathology evolved out of one of the ten workstreams of the Developing One NHS in Dorset vanguard. From the outset, its ambition has been to create a first-class, integrated pathology service for the whole of Dorset, supported by a single IT system, new equipment, pathology hubs and essential services laboratories, and appropriate staff mix.

About: CliniSys Group

For over 30 years CliniSys Group has been at the forefront of workflow and information management solutions across all pathology disciplines – Anatomical, Clinical, and Molecular. These encompass the complete workflow from order, collection, processing, analysis, results and reporting, through their integration into the clinical workflow. CliniSys Group has built an unrivalled reputation for the deployment of complex pathology networks and academic centres – and is the only vendor repeatably delivering across all disciplines end to end – at scale.

CliniSys Group solutions have been deployed in 10 languages in thousands of laboratories across 23 countries, and are used by hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals. Headquartered in the UK, CliniSys Group employs through CliniSys (UK) and MIPS (Europe), close to 500 dedicated pathology IT professionals.

CliniSys UK is market leader with all its solutions. Its LIMS solution, WinPath, is deployed in nearly 50% of all NHS trusts. More than one third of Acute NHS trusts use its Order Comms solution, ICE, for test ordering by hospital wards and over 70% of the same trusts use ICE for GP ordering.

Please visit www.clinisysgroup.com and www.clinisys.co.uk for more information.