

Dear Colleague

The Trust is heading in to a significant period of cultural change. Part of this involves our relationship with colleagues in Primary Care. As part of this we have ceased sending default copies to General Practitioners – these will only now be generated when there is a clear and justifiable reason following a specific request or clearly identified pathway.

This was reinforced in the following email from our Medical Director to Consultant and other senior medical staff on 13th May 2016:

As I am sure you will agree it is the clear responsibility of a clinician requesting a Test to act on the result. There is a common practice of copying results of pathology tests to GPs. This is causing considerable stress and a huge workload following through results which may already have been acted on.

With a view to avoiding this in the future we are stopping automatic copy results going to our primary care colleagues. Clearly there are circumstances where it is appropriate for a GP to take action on a result of something you may have initiated. Under these circumstances I am sure you would agree that written instructions (combined with a phone call where appropriate) should be sent in a timely manner, indicating what has been requested and actions to take.

There is a commitment from our colleagues in primary care to reciprocate.

I would be happy to discuss.

Dr Sean Elyan
Medical Director

If this is not clear or causes issues for your service or pathways please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Thank you

Phil Bullock
Speciality Director of Pathology
GHNHSFT