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Outstanding Test List Dashboards

Cwm Taf, Aneurin Bevan and Hywel Dda

A collaboration across Health Boards has seen a development in monitoring the status of tests received in laboratories. The dashboards illustrate Outstanding Test Lists (OTL) and have been installed in Biochemistry and Haematology Laboratories within Cwm Taf and Hywel Dda health boards in an effort to provide a visual aid to the laboratory staff who process samples.

Most laboratories in Wales rely on manually run reports or an ad-hoc system to monitor their outstanding tests. These OTL dashboards, based on the original model created by Tim Player (Senior Biomedical Scientist, Aneurin Bevan), provide a continually updating, instantly visible set of information drawn from the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) that can be fully customised to suit the needs of individual laboratories.



Juber Islam (Pathology Informatics Officer, LINC Programme) has worked closely with Tim Player to develop and enhance the OTL dashboards since October 2020 and now allows the roll-out of this innovative approach into other Health boards and Trusts. The OTL dashboard is a customisable query platform that ensures the correct information is pulled through from the LIMS via Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) connection to the display, and provides a real-time snapshot of the outstanding work flowing through the laboratory in real-time.

Gwyn Bennett (Pathology IT Manager, Hywel Dda) and Roberto Spagna (Biomedical Scientist, Cwm Taf) have been working closely with Juber Islam to define the data needed for their local laboratories they want represented, and this has involved designing the information tabs that laboratory staff will need and gathering feedback on potential improvement from users to further develop this new innovative service.



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The intended goal of the OTL Dashboards is that they will save time for laboratory staff by removing the need for manually run reports, provide an easy method of tracking tests to be processed, and to improve the overall turnaround times of tests. In addition, statistics can be produced to measure these benefits and assist audits going forward.

Ongoing work is progressing with Biochemistry and Haematology laboratories in the Prince Charles Hospital and the Royal Glamorgan Hospital who have had the OTL dashboards implemented in March/April of this year. Further development work on improvements and refinements to the current dashboards including additional configuration is progressing at pace. In a few months, the hope is that there will be a demonstrable effect on the turnaround times within the laboratories that will inform further opportunity developments going forward.

Laboratories in Swansea Bay, who have a similar system in place, have indicated interest in having OTL Dashboards implemented. Should the new service prove beneficial to laboratories, it may very well be offered to all Health Boards and Trusts across Wales interested in adopting it.