

# Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Pan Tumour Diagnostic PDP

April – October 2023

This project was part of a collaborative working agreement between MSD and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

## What is a PDP?

The Pathway Development Programme (PDP) is a collaborative working agreement between MSD and the NHS designed to support healthcare providers to optimise cancer pathways, enabling patients to be diagnosed and treated faster.

## Summary of Project

An opportunity was identified in Blackpool to optimise the Pan Tumour\* Pathology pathway aligned with the national optimal Pan Tumour Diagnostic Pathology pathway. This aimed to improve service quality, efficiency, productivity and patient experience.

## Objectives



An optimised Pan Tumour Diagnostic Pathology pathway aligned to the national optimal timed Pan Tumour Diagnostic Pathology Pathway.



Achievement of reducing Pan Tumour Pathology pathway turnaround times and 28 day Faster Diagnostic Standard Cancer Waiting Time Targets.



Earlier referral, diagnosis and treatment of Pan Tumour patients through optimisation of the histopathology turnaround times, and hence the improving the chance of successful treatment.

## Impacts



**Skin turnaround time reduction**

14 days to 12 days

**GI turnaround time reduction**

13 days to 10 days

**Gynae turnaround time reduction**

11 days to 10 days

Turnaround times measured from March 2023 to January 2024. While the project provisionally finished in October 2023, data collection continued until January 2024 to obtain 12-month collated data for comparison purposes.

References:  
1. <https://www.thepathologycentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/CP-WEB-INS-016.UN-16.1-Turnaround-times-V1.3.pdf>

\* Pan-Tumour denotes Skin, Gynaecology and Upper Gastrointestinal (GI) pathways for the purpose of this PDP project.

## Solutions



MSD provided project management support to assess turnaround times of the histopathology pathway from receipt of sample to diagnostic result reporting.

A gap analysis was carried out and the following areas were identified as areas of improvement to reduce turnaround times in line with the Royal College Pathology KPI (90% of samples received reported within 10 calendar days)<sup>1</sup>:

Increased quality of clinical information required on request form

Ensuring correct balance of staffing vs workload

Review rota start times to cover full day use of haematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stainer

Implementing competency assessment to ensure high quality H&E images produced

“ There were several improvements noted and implemented as a result of the work done with MSD that have made a difference to our service.

– NHS Stakeholder ”

“ Collaboration with MSD’s implementation leads proved beneficial in supporting specific improvement work and utilising ‘free to the NHS’ additional capacity to benefit patients and providers.”

– Kaye Davies, Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance Programme Manager ”