

South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance Pan-Tumour Pathology Pathway Development Programme (PDP)

This project was done as part of a collaborative working agreement between MSD and South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance.

October 2022 – September 2023



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.

Objectives

To enhance service quality, efficiency, productivity, and patient experience through the optimisation of South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance's pan-tumour pathology testing pathway.

The desired outcome of this project was an improved pan-tumour histopathology molecular testing pathway within the Cancer Alliance's regional trusts and demonstrate improvements of the relevant targets associated with head and neck/skin/lung/breast & gynaecological cancers, 28-day Faster Diagnostic Standard, and the 31- and 62-day Cancer Waiting Time (CWT) targets.

Challenges

Cancer diagnostic pathways can be complicated and adherence to the 62-day pathway is challenging. Within South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance, it was identified that delays in the histopathology pathway were contributing to a decreased 62-day CWT adherence. One factor in this was that samples were having to be transported out-of-region to laboratories for testing in other parts of the UK. Improving the histopathology pathway to facilitate faster diagnosis would likely improve patient outcomes, reducing the risk of performance status decline and potentially enabling patients to have access to a broader range of treatment options.

Solution

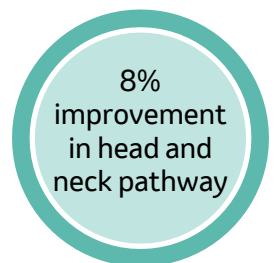
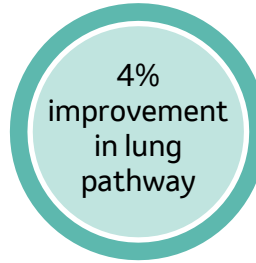
Through the collaboration between MSD and South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance, an improved histopathology pathway was implemented through:

- Greater NHS understanding of regional workload for cancer histopathology services.
- Creating greater engagement and a collaborative approach across previously siloed histopathology laboratories.
- Consolidation of regional specialised cancer histopathology services.

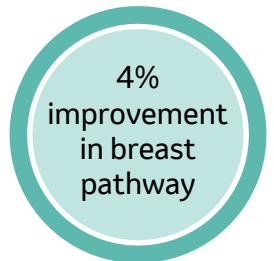
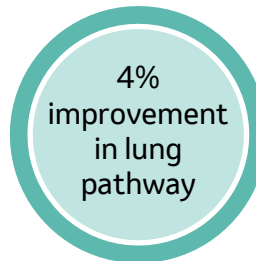
Impact

- Data and evidence base gathered to support South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw's funding as a Cellular Pathology Genomic Hub, to co-ordinate and expedite out of region testing where this is necessary.
- PD-L1 testing in lung moved from out-of-region to in-region and planned to be moved in-region for breast, skin, head & neck and gynaecological pathways.
- HER2 FISH testing planned to be brought in-house in 2025 which has the potential to reduce pathways with associated HER2 FISH testing by 14 days.

31-day CWT Improvements



62-day CWT Improvements



*31- and 62-day CWT improvement data measured from July 2022 to December 2023 as the % of patients achieving the CWT targets in each pathway.

Inhouse pilot of regional lung next generation sequencing (NGS) testing service resulted in a pathway reduction of **12 days**



*March 2024 data, turnaround time = time from NGS request to authorised result