



Path Links Scope of Service

INT-POL-26

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1. General

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLAG) are part of a Group operating model with Hull University Hospitals, NHS Humber Health Partnership. Path Links NHS Pathology service is a directorate within Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLAG). Our scope of services consists of Blood Sciences (Chemical Pathology, Haematology including Specialist Coagulation and Blood Transfusion, Immunology and Andrology), Cellular Pathology (Histology, Non-gynae Cytology and Mortuary), and Microbiology (Bacteriology and Serology). Examinations available for request, but not performed on Path Links sites will be sent to accredited referral laboratories where possible.

Path Links is committed to providing a diagnostic service of the highest quality and value, placing emphasis on continually improving its processes and services to exceed the expectations of users. Path Links is committed to building a culture of continuous improvement with the aim of:

- Identifying and eliminating all forms of waste that do not bring value to the customer
- Continually adding value to processes and all aspects of the service
- Identify and manage risks to prevent or reduce undesired outcomes for our customer
- Delivering high quality value for money services that fully satisfy customer needs

As part of an ongoing process to achieve these aspirations Path Links will comply with all legal, statutory and regulatory requirements related to the scope of service it provides.

Where possible, Path Links will ensure that reviews of requests, tenders and contracts include appropriate consideration of clients' awareness of the way the organisation operates across the various locations.

2. Single Management System

Path Links operates a single management system across all of its laboratory sites. In all instances each Clinical Directorate has a Clinical Lead and a Directorate Operational Manager (DOM) who report directly to the Pathology Network Care Group Chief of Service and Pathology Network Care Group Operations Director.

Where possible common Policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place, which apply to all Path Links laboratory sites undertaking the procedure. Where this is not possible, site/directorate specific instructions and procedures are in place. All controlled documents are stored and available through the Q-Pulse Documents Module, accessible by all staff.

3. Transfer of samples between locations

Details of the transfer of samples between locations is documented in INT-POL-4, Path Links Specimen Transport Safety Policy. Specific transport route information can be found in INT-INS-220, Path Links Courier Routes.

4. Allocation of work and testing locations

Allocation of work and testing locations is specified in the Path Links Scope of Service.

Path Links is headquartered at the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital Grimsby. Its postal address is:

Path Links NHS Pathology Service
Diana Princess of Wales Hospital
Scarcho Road
Grimsby, DN33 2BA
Telephone: 01472 874111

There are seven sites within the Path Links Directorate with five laboratory sites providing routine and emergency services across the organisation as illustrated in the matrix below:

Diana Princess of Wales Hospital Grimsby (A)	Scunthorpe General Hospital (B)	Lincoln County Hospital (C)
Scarcho Road Grimsby, DN33 2BA Telephone: 01472 874111	Cliff Gardens Scunthorpe, DN15 7BH Telephone: 01724 282282	Greetwell Road Lincoln, LN2 5QY Telephone: 01522 512512
Combined Blood Sciences with Biochemistry & Haematology Blood Transfusion Andrology Phlebotomy	Combined Blood Sciences with Biochemistry & Haematology Blood Transfusion Immunology† Phlebotomy Microbiology Serology†	Combined Blood Sciences with Biochemistry & Haematology Blood Transfusion Phlebotomy Histopathology† Cytology (non-gynaecological)†
Boston Pilgrim Hospital (D)	Grantham & District General Hospital (E)	† Denotes centralised service
Sibsey Road Boston, PE21 9QS Telephone: 01205 364801	Manthorpe Road Grantham, NG21 8DG Telephone: 01476 565232	
Combined Blood Sciences with Biochemistry & Haematology Blood Transfusion Andrology Phlebotomy Microbiology	Combined Blood Sciences with Biochemistry & Haematology Blood Transfusion Phlebotomy	
County Hospital Louth (G)	Goole and District Hospital (F)	
High Holme Road, Louth LN11 0EU	Avenue Goole East Riding of Yorkshire DN14 6RX	
Phlebotomy	Phlebotomy	

5. Changes to Scope of Service

Any proposed changes in the scope of service offered by Path Links are notified to Path Links Management Board (PLMB) via Directorate updates and with the use of Temp-402- Scope of Service Amendment.

Changes below would normally require a formal extension to scope application:

- New laboratory locations or an amendment to the location
- New or replacement analysers/equipment of a different type and/or from a different manufacturer
- New or changed test kit
- New sample types
- New analytes, targets, staining methods, probes, antibodies or measurement principles using existing analysers/equipment
- Change of reference/validated method (e.g. type of PCR, antimicrobial susceptibility testing method)
- Automation of manual examination processes (e.g. automated ELISA, blood grouping, staining or semen analysis), or vice versa

As a minimum the following documentation must be available:

- Documented technical procedure
- Method validation\verification
- Estimation of measurement uncertainty
- Details of the measurement traceability chain
- Evidence of management of the change

Any implications for the organisation, users and service will be considered. If changes to scope are deemed to affect or impact other locations providing the service, this will be appropriately considered and documented within meeting minutes.

If proposed changes are approved it is accepted that as part of its accreditation expectations that Path Links will inform all interested parties, including UKAS, of any changes in a timely manner. A record will be retained to allow monitoring of tests submitted for extensions to our scope and their progress.

6. Reference to Accreditation

Path Links maintains the final responsibility for all activities performed by the laboratory testing locations covered under the scope of multisite accreditation. The individual laboratory testing locations shall not offer UKAS accredited services under their own name within the multisite accreditation.

Path Links does not routinely use the relevant accreditation symbols on any of its publications. Where Path Links wishes to make reference to its UKAS accreditation instead of using the *national accreditation logo*, it shall without variation refer to “The National Accreditation Logo and Symbols: Conditions for use by UKAS and UKAS-accredited organisations” (or revised version) for specific

wording. Path Links will take all reasonable steps to ensure that this wording is used by any customer when referring to the use of an accredited organisation.

7. Accredited scope of service

The Path Links scope of accredited services can be found on the UKAS website [8833 Medical Multiple](#)