



Ten Principles for Modernisation of Laboratory Medicine

- 1) **Accreditation** of all laboratories
 - a) Laboratory Medicine services to support patient and clinician requirements in the context of the ongoing transformation of the Irish health system
 - b) Think beyond ISO-15189, - include patient-centred QA and clinical audit
- 2) **Clinical Input** in all disciplines – to be increased
 - a) Appoint more specialist pathologists in the subspecialties
 - b) Provide more clinical audit
 - c) Provide more clinical services
- 3) **Networks** – develop a network of National, Regional, Local laboratories
 - a) Develop a directorate management structure
 - b) Incorporate Hot and Cold models
 - c) Centralise complex low-volume work to specialised centres, and high volume automated tests to core labs
 - d) Include education and training of pathologists and scientists
 - e) Include provision for R&D
- 4) **Manage Demand** in Primary and Secondary Care
 - a) Develop clinical screening programmes with approved investigation strategies (CHD, Diabetes, prostate, thyroid)
 - b) Common investigation protocols, standardised test codes and test selection menus, national lab e-handbook
- 5) **IT Connectivity** – upgrade to support new network/hot and cold labs, to include:
 - a) Unique patient identifier needed
 - b) Electronic ordering and reporting
 - c) Interlab connectivity (e.g. for referred tests)
 - d) Clinical-Laboratory connectivity and GP connectivity
- 6) **Improved work practices**
 - a) Linked with patient needs, and ongoing clinical/hospital reforms
 - b) Extended opening hours, multidisciplinary teams (e.g. lab aides, basic medical scientists staffing core workstations;
 - c) Consider an integrated scientific staffing spine
- 7) Use **Core Labs** Technology
- 8) **Phlebotomy and Transport Logistics** – to be improved
 - a) Community phlebotomy centres
 - b) Access based on patient need (common waiting list), not ability to pay
- 9) Develop a **charging/ cost/workload model** using standardised test codes





FACULTY OF PATHOLOGY

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Frederick House
19 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2
Telephone: +353 1 863 9700
Facsimile: +353 1 672 4707
Email: pathology@rcpi.ie
Website: www.rcpi.ie

- a) Is it appropriate to continue to offer pathology testing free of charge at public facilities to all private patients (including those attending private hospitals)?
 - b) Which investigations would remain free of charge (e.g. testing as part of an approved clinical programme) and which are chargeable?
 - c) Charges for occupational testing, life insurance examinations?, etc
- 10) **POCT** – support implementation of National POCT Guidelines
- a) Including an accreditation scheme for POCT facilities in the community (hospital POCT is covered by hospital accreditation schemes)

