

29 June 2022

Subject: Transfer of pathology services at Port Macquarie Base Hospital to NSW Health Pathology

Good morning/afternoon,

As you may have heard, the Mid North Coast Local Health District has recently advised staff that from 31 October 2022, pathology services at Port Macquarie Base Hospital will transfer to NSW Health Pathology (NSWHP).

I'm writing to introduce myself and provide some more details about the upcoming change to pathology services in the Mid North Coast.

My name is Michelle McPherson and I'm the Project Lead for the transfer of services and commissioning of the NSWHP laboratory at Port Macquarie Base Hospital. Some of you I know from my time as NSWHP Operations Manager – Northern NSW and I look forward to working with you.

We are now working with the LHD and the current private provider to ensure a seamless transition with minimal disruption to services. Of course, patient safety and care will be paramount during the transition.

This change will link Port Macquarie with pathology services provided by NSWHP in the wider Hastings Macleay region and ensure continuity of pathology services during periods of high demand.

We are now working to establish a laboratory at Port Macquarie Base Hospital providing the full range of pathology testing services, as well as inpatient pathology and outpatient collection services.

NSWHP will also:

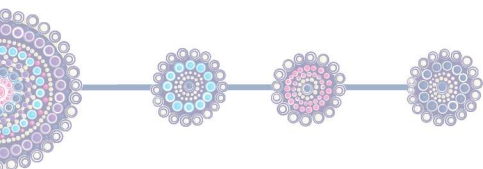
- deliver an enhanced point of care testing service.
- establish an Anatomical Pathology (AP) service hub in the region to provide local services at Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.
- provide expanded on-site microbiology testing.
- provide automated specimen tracking via NSWHP's statewide electronic specimen tracking system to ensure specimens arrive safely.

We're in discussions with the current private provider about offering appropriately qualified staff roles with the new public pathology service.

NSWHP will ensure all staff are provided with the necessary resources, training, and support to provide quality, safe and reliable services.

I am aware that many of you have some questions around accessing electronic medical records (within the hospital system and at your private surgeries), along with onsite Anatomical Pathology services.

I hope this information helps to fill in any gaps.



Will there be an online portal to look up results, will they have a read only access or Auslab or similar that they can access in their surgeries?

Electronic Medical Results

NSW Health Pathology has a proven record of working with Mid North Coast LHD to integrate pathology into hospital services.

NSW Health clinicians at Port Macquarie (and all Mid North Coast LHD hospitals) will have access to patient results through the Electronic Medical Records (eMR) system on the Northern NSW PowerChart application. This provides clinicians with immediate, 24/7 access to pathology results across organisational boundaries, so they can provide timely and quality patient care.

The Northern NSW PowerChart application is managed by the IT teams from Mid North Coast & Northern NSW LHD, and they will provide instructions on how to access NSW Health Pathology results, as part of the service transition. .

NSW Health clinicians can have read-only access to Auslab if needed, but the preference is to use the eMR system on the Northern NSW PowerChart application.

HealthLink

NSW Health Pathology also offers online pathology results to private practice clinicians (such as GPs/private specialists) via the HealthLink online results portal. This enables you to view your patients' results quickly, efficiently and securely from any computer with an internet connection. It provides real-time results, anytime, anywhere and replaces paper-based work flows and improves efficiencies. NSW Health Pathology can set up private practices on HealthLink, so please speak to myself (Michelle McPherson) and I can facilitate.

Fusion

Fusion is our largest program of work to achieve statewide consistency and efficiency in how we deliver pathology services to patients and partners.

Fusion's projects, including a single, statewide laboratory information management system (LIMS) which is currently in development, will integrate with our other important initiatives to standardise systems, processes and workflows, such as our statewide test catalogue.

With a single statewide LIMS at its heart, Fusion encompasses:

- *A virtual Laboratory Network – to facilitate redirection of messaging for orders and results*
- *HL7 messaging to support seamless and standardised transfer of information electronically within NSW Health Pathology and with external entities*
- *One statewide Quality Management Information System (QMIS)*
- *A standardised solution for eReporting*

How does NSWHP intend to do their frozen sections and offer Histology services at Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

NSW Health Pathology is establishing an Anatomical Pathologists (APs) hub at Coffs Harbour with a pool of six (6) local APs to service Mid North Coast LHD. The hub is currently undergoing enhancements to include an expanded processing lab and dedicated reporting facility.

It will enable NSW Health Pathology to have a minimum of one anatomical pathologist on-site at Port Macquarie Base Hospital to report frozen sections and be available for local consultation.

The AP hub also ensures we'll have additional pathologists based locally to support Mid North Coast clinicians and will provide leave cover and back up as required.

Please share this update with your colleagues and let me know if you have any questions. You can email me directly or via NSWPATH-PortMacquarie@health.nsw.gov.au.

I'll provide further updates as we progress through the transition.

Kind regards,

Michelle McPherson
Project Lead Port Macquarie
Ph 0457820782
Michelle.McPherson@health.nsw.gov.au
www.pathology.health.nsw.gov.au



NSW Health Pathology acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.