

25th March 2026

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Dear colleague,

Transfer of Immunology services from Royal United Hospitals Bath (RUH) to North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT)

We are writing to raise awareness of an impending pathology service change.

As part of a planned service alignment across the region, Immunology services will be transferred from the RUH to North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT), with the transition beginning in April 2026. This change is intended to support long-term service resilience, improve standardisation, and ensure high-quality specialist Immunology provision for all service users.

High volume coeliac testing (tTG), rheumatoid factor, and intrinsic factor antibody testing will continue to be processed on-site at the RUH within the Clinical Biochemistry department.

Pathway and Requesting Changes

- As part of the service transfer, some diagnostic pathways will be updated to reflect best practice and align to NBT's testing processes.
 - Further communications will follow to highlight pathway specific changes.
 - During this period, updates will be made to ICE and Millennium so that test names and panel contents reflect the new pathways and improve clarity for users.
 - We will provide advance notice and full guidance before any changes.
- Samples will continue to be sent to RUH Pathology as usual, before being sent to NBT for processing.
- The primary sample will be sent to NBT, so it is **ESSENTIAL** that all immunology and allergy tests are sent in a **separate tube**.
- Samples will be logged into the RUH laboratory database so there will be a local audit trail of samples sent. The results will be sent back electronically to ensure timely reporting.

Impact on Results

We would like to reassure all colleagues that:

- The quality of the immunology service will not be impacted, and the adoption of new testing pathways will enhance the diagnostic service. The Immunology service at NBT is accredited by UKAS to ISO 15189 standards.
- NBT is a clinically led Immunology centre under the Clinical Director and Consultant Clinical Scientist Dr Adrian Heaps, with Consultant Immunology support and clinical services on site. This clinical support will be available for RUH patients and teams such as Rheumatology will continue to have a close working relationship with their laboratory colleagues.
- NBT has strong links with research and is actively developing its service so RUH will be able to benefit from more and newer tests being available locally.
- Results will continue to be released into ICE and Millennium as they are now, with no immediate changes to reporting routes or visibility. Turnaround times (TATs) are expected to remain unchanged or improve during and after the transition.
 - Any updates to TATs will be published on the Pathology website as they become available.

Ongoing Support

- Our priority is to maintain a safe, reliable, and high-quality service throughout this transition. We appreciate your cooperation and will continue to share information as timelines and pathway updates become available.
- The RUH Pathology website ([RUH Pathology Services](#)) will be updated to reflect the new processes and pathways, as well as contact details for clinical advice and support.
- If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the Pathology Service via the usual channels or using the contact details listed below.

Kind regards,



Mark Nicholas

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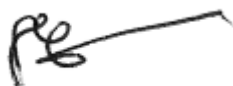
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