



# The impact on users and patients of reducing turnaround times in histopathology

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## **Objectives**

- Histopathology
  - Tunaround times reduced from 13 to 4 days (average)
  - 30% in 7 days September 2009
  - 97% in 7 days & 47% in 3 days December 2010
- Are the clinicians aware? What are they doing about it?
- Are patients receiving earlier:
  - Results
  - MDT discussion
  - Management plans.

The importance of histopathology work can only be realised if clinicians are aware of the reduced turnaround times and translating this into benefits for patients.

# Methods

- Engaged high volume user as active member of project
- Project presented:

## Fewer follow-up appointments?

'When I see complex surgical patients for suture removal at one week, I can now give them their result and discharge them straight away which means one less follow-up.' **Consultant Dermatologist** 

## 25 fewer outpatient slots required per month.

## **Consultant Gynaecologist**

- A more patient-focussed service with a reduction in the patient journey especially if a malignancy is found
- Fewer problems with breach dates
- Fewer phone calls from patients about their results
- Confidently giving patients appointments at two weekly intervals if needed.

## Conclusions

'This will ultimately provide a much improved, faster and safer service for patients.'

### Chair of the Patients' Panel

ostics

- Executive team meeting
- Cancer strategy day
- Cancer board
- Medical division meeting
- Medical grand round
- GP pathology day
- Written about in:
  - Trust Gazette
  - Trust Annual Report
- One-to-one meetings with cliniciansgastroenterology, dermatology, gynaecology and urology
- Won first prize in Trust 'dragons den' award for in-house innovative database design.

## **Results** Unexpected malignancies

- Up to 10 cases per year
- Previously could sit in 'routine' pile for weeks as cases were prioritised and reported according to clinical demand/urgency
- Now reported first-in-first-out.

## Earlier discussion at MDM

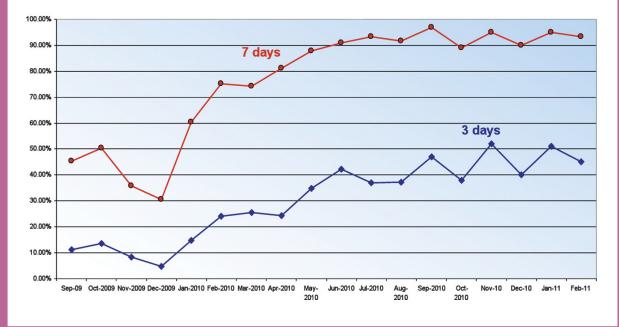
Urology patients with suspected malignancy

- Biopsied on Friday
- Discussed at MDM on following Tuesday am
- Patients given result and management plan Tuesday pm.

## A whole week saved!

#### WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL

Turnaround times - % of workload in 3 & 7 days



#### OVERALL TURNAROUND TIME

(Specimen collection to electronic validation)

