

November 2016

The National Demand Optimisation Group met on 7th October where they discussed and agreed on the required content for the Demand Optimisation Review Report which will be finalised in November.

## Recommendations

The NDOG group through its meetings and ongoing workstreams has continued to produce excellent work with continued input into the review report. Following on from the last meeting the group reviewed the draft report and agreed recommendations and future establishment of national workstreams to progress the key aims of the Demand Optimisation Group.

Recommendations have been made on the following area's;

- **Data Management**

Data collection and reporting is a key enabler for all future work and this should be taken forward within existing work in the NHS Scotland Shared Services Laboratories project to meet the requirements set out for Demand Optimisation

- **Service Variation**

There is a requirements to identify variation across NHS Boards both in terms of scope of available services and the actual use both in Primary and Secondary care.

- **Requester Feedback**

A common, consistent approach to providing requestors with information around their own activity should be considered.

- **Minimum retesting intervals (MRIs)**

Existing guidance on MRIs in lab tests should be consistently implemented across all NHS Boards to reduce unnecessary repeat testing.

- **Introduction of new tests**

A more focused and collaborative workstream aimed at facilitating the introduction of new tests within definitive clinical pathways should be initiated.

## Implementation Planning

In order to implement and advise on these recommendations it is proposed that Short Life Working Groups (SLWG) would be introduced to look at the next steps required for each of the recommendations. These groups will focus on how the work is taken forward, the structures required to efficiently progress, the appropriate governance and what support will be needed.



# NNMS Workshop Event

A Demand Optimisation workshop was held recently as part of the National Network Management Service event which was entitled “Once for Scotland – maximising the impact of national managed clinical and diagnostic networks”. The workshop group discussed workstreams on Improved Data Management, Reduced Service Variation, Reduced Referrer Variation, National Agreement on New Tests and Test Modifications, Common Minimum retesting Intervals, and Additions to test case library.

The participants from the workshop have since been contacted to request any further comments or suggestions are submitted for review.

## Test of Change

As part of the Demand Optimisation work a survey was sent out to relevant parties to request information on any demand optimisation / demand management work that they might have implemented or undertaken.

Following on from this further detailed responses were requested from those who participated in this survey. It is hoped that by sharing this information and the details of these practises that other areas will choose to implement similar processes or review current process and procedures to look if there are any improvements that could be made.

Some of the topics covered are;

- Reducing number of “triple swabs” sent to the labs by GPs for genital infection
- Reducing asymptomatic urine cultures
- Changing front line test for serological screening for rheumatoid arthritis from RF to CCP
- Use of primary care dashboard to influence demand in a number of areas
- Review of CA19-9 and CA153 referrals to outside laboratories

These test cases have been collated into a test case library and are available on the Demand Optimisation website - [www.mcns.scot.nhs.uk/dog/resoures/test-cases/](http://www.mcns.scot.nhs.uk/dog/resoures/test-cases/)

We would welcome any additional tests of change that you may wish to share, please send to - [NSS.nationaldemand@nhs.net](mailto:NSS.nationaldemand@nhs.net)



Further details can be found on both the Scottish Government website;  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00476785.pdf>

And in the National Demand Optimisation Group website;  
<http://www.mcns.scot.nhs.uk/dog/>