

Press release
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New pathology provider for South London and Maudsley

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) has announced that Viapath, a leading UK pathology services provider, has been awarded a five-year contract to deliver all pathology services for the organisation.

SLaM provides over 230 mental health and substance misuse services across south London and the UK - including inpatient wards, outpatient and community services.

Viapath will provide a full pathology service for the Trust, from the initial collection of samples to the analysis of around 340,000 tests each year. The company will collect samples from 18 sites across the Trust and undertake biochemistry, haematology, immunology, toxicology, microbiology, virology and genetics testing at its laboratories in south London.

Currently there are a number of providers of pathology services across the Trust, which has led to inefficiencies and variations in the quality of the service. The new contract marks a move to a single provider and is expected to bring considerable improvements in terms of the quality and efficiency.

Benefits of the new contract include:

- As a single provider, Viapath will deliver a consistent service against a standard model across all Trust sites – which will avoid confusion for staff and patients moving around the Trust
- Test requests can be ordered, tracked and results reported electronically to clinical services
- Duplications in test requests will be avoided as it will be possible to check whether a patient has already received a test prior to requesting
- Methods for transporting specimens will be standardised across the Trust

These, and other improvements, will deliver cost improvement savings to the Trust of more than £3 million over seven years. The announcement follows a full OJEU competitive tender process and staff engagement. The contract will go live on 1 February 2016.

Dr Matthew Patrick, Chief Executive, South London and Maudsley said:

“Viapath already has a strong track record of delivering pathology services to SLaM. Going forward we will be working in partnership with them as a single provider to

systematically develop the service, improving on quality and driving down cost through efficiency.”

Richard Jones, Viapath Chief Executive said:

“I am delighted that Viapath has been appointed to deliver pathology services to SLaM. I am confident that both parties will work together to improve and transform the services we provide, meeting the clinical needs of the Trust and improving outcomes for patients.”

ENDS

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Notes to editors

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) provides the widest range of mental health and substance misuse services in the UK. SLaM treats people in south London and offers specialist services to people from across the country. Both the Maudsley Hospital and Bethlem Royal Hospital are part of SLaM. For more information see www.slam.nhs.uk

South London and Maudsley is part of King's Health Partners - a major collaboration between three of the countries most successful NHS Foundations Trusts - Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley, and one of the world's leading research universities, King's College London.

Viapath is a joint venture between Guy's and St. Thomas' and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts and Serco plc. Majority owned by its NHS partners, Viapath provides pathology services to over 400 NHS trusts, GP practices and private health clinics. With around 1,100 employees processing more than 25 million tests each year, the work of Viapath touches thousands of lives every day.

For more information, visit www.viapath.co.uk or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).