

NSW Health Pathology Genomics

Local Health District / Clinician update (June 2016)

NSW Health Pathology is creating a statewide genomics service. It will bring together the expertise that exists across our laboratories into a coordinated, statewide service dedicated to delivering state-of-the-art diagnostics and care for patients across NSW.

Why create a statewide genomics service?

- NSW Health Pathology is already home to some of the brightest minds in the genomics field.
- As the largest public pathology provider in Australia, we need to be at the forefront of the genomics revolution.
- We'll achieve this by pooling our expertise and resources and operating as a coordinated statewide service.
- Creating a statewide genomics service will help ensure NSW Health Pathology is a strong, recognisable force in a highly competitive field.

Expected benefits

Having a statewide genomics service will deliver a range of benefits to patients, clinicians and our staff. NSW Health Pathology Genomics will:

- Help ensure clinicians and patients have better access to our genomics expertise regardless of geographic boundaries,
- Help us more rapidly embrace and translate new knowledge and technologies,
- Enable us to provide a broader range of clinically relevant testing,
- Help us reduce unnecessary duplication and ensure we make the most of our resources,
- Put us in a better position to lead and support genomics research and innovations, and
- Provide exciting new opportunities and career paths for our staff.

What's happened so far?

- Dr Cliff Meldrum was appointed as our Director of Medical Genomics in April 2016. He will lead the transition to a statewide service.
- We have a three-year strategic plan in place to guide our efforts, and we're creating a small management unit to drive the plan forward.
- The *Genomics Strategic Plan 2016-2018* was developed with the NSW Health Pathology Genomics Steering Committee, which includes representatives from all of our pathology networks.
- The plan was endorsed by our Executive Leadership Team in May 2016.

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What does this mean for the services NSW Health Pathology provides?

- NSW Health Pathology Genomics will initially develop its expertise around three main service specialties:
 - Cancer
 - Rare disorders
 - Infectious diseases
- We're already very strong in these areas and believe they have the greatest potential to improve clinical care across the NSW Health system.

What does this mean for the way we access genomics services?

- For now, nothing changes in the genomics services you receive from NSW Health Pathology.
- The day-to-day relationships you have with our genomics experts hasn't changed, and how you access our services hasn't changed.
- Our focus at this stage is internal. This involves working with our staff to find the best ways to pool our expertise, improve collaboration and support a new statewide model.
- The ultimate aim is to create a stronger, more coordinated service that gives clinicians and patients greater access to our genomics expertise, regardless of geographic boundaries.

What happens next?

- Starting in early June, Dr Meldrum will visit our genomics labs to talk about NSW Health Pathology Genomics and why we're taking this new approach.
- We'll be getting staff input on a range of immediate internal priorities, such as:
 - The initial operating and governance models for NSW Health Pathology Genomics
 - Ways to increase collaboration internally and with our customers / partners
 - How we can think and operate differently to be more innovative and competitive
 - The necessary support systems a statewide genomics service will need
- We'll keep our Local Health District customers informed as we develop NSW Health Pathology Genomics.
- When we have more clarity about the service model and what it means for you, we'll meet with key contacts to get your input and ensure NSW Health Pathology Genomics meets your needs.

For more information

- You can find a copy of the *NSW Health Pathology Genomics Strategic Plan 2016-2018* on our [website](#).
- You can share your ideas for the future with Dr Meldrum by sending him an email at cliff.meldrum@health.nsw.gov.au.