Nipims, MAC and what all these abbreviations mean for GPs

NIPIMS= NI Pathology Information Management System

MAC= Minimum Acceptance Criteria

Lab systems and changes ; what's local and what's regional



Pre-Nov 2023

BT Labcentre

NT, SET,ST, WT - BSO labs – 5 versions

All independent of each other, no common requestor database

Post-Nov 2023

BT & SET launch Clinisys WPE . Other 3 will join in coming 18 months so 2 of 5 on a unified platform with other 3 joining

Transition period BUT here and now

1. Regional tests/ testing
2. Some Trusts have had local arrangements for trainees, ANPs , nurses etc which don't work in NIPIMS
3. Error rates in requests leading to problems with Unknown Requestor (more of this in following slides)



“I’m a GP in Derry, Antrim or Newry – it doesn’t affect me”

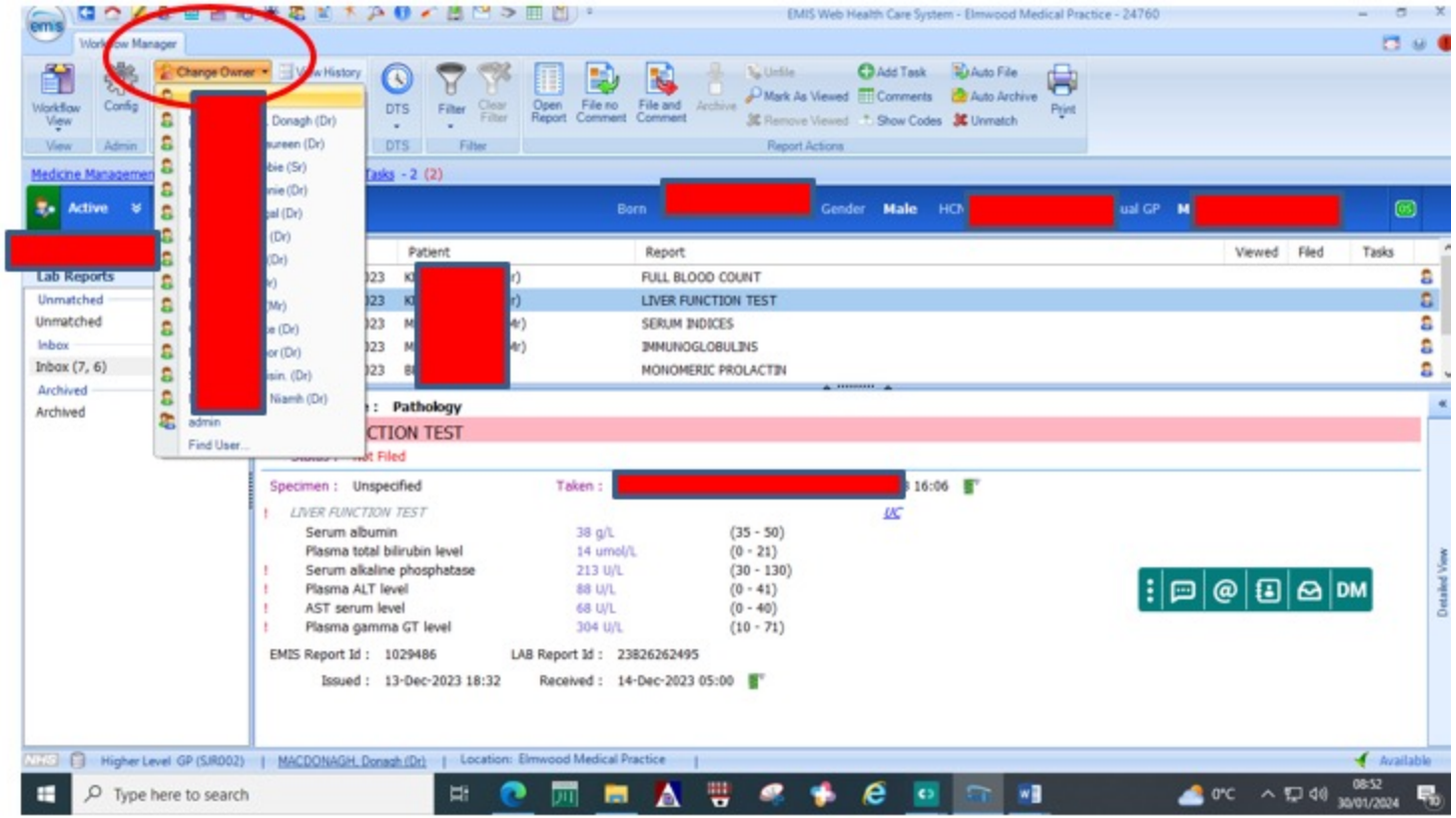
It does ! And already!

1. Some Trusts have had local arrangements for trainees, ANPs , nurse to have ciphers created in their BSO Labs instance . These are creating problems and will have to go since there can only ATM be a validated list from CPM (the system that BSO FPS use to manage GP cipher joiners and leavers) . Tests need to be ordered in the cipher of partners or salaried Drs only ATM. That may mean internal redistribution within GP system (see next slide)

2. Some tests are done regionally by one specific lab . That means that a calprotectin sent from Derry or Belfast GPs ends up in UHD labs not in the local lab . If that regional lab doesn’t know who the requestor is then it can’t send a result back .

Test	Where performed
H Pylori stool antigen	SET labs
Calprotectin	SET labs
qFIT	NT labs
Toxicology / drugs of abuse screen	BT labs

Internal redistribution in Emis



We recognise that this may be frustrating for practices in short-term

Minimum Acceptance Criteria



MAC has been regional since Feb 2023….

Department of Health

PATHNET NI
Pathology Network, Northern Ireland

NI Pathology Network Chair &
Chief Executive of Northern HSC Trust

23rd February 2023

All Northern Ireland GP's

Dear GP Practice,

Formal implementation of the new Regional Pathology Sample Request Policy & Procedure

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the NI Pathology Network Board to make you aware that the above policy & procedure (enclosed as separate document) will be formally endorsed across all HSC Trusts & NI Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) in preparation for the implementation of the new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), May 2023 Belfast Trust (first site).

Samples requests that do not fulfil the new minimum acceptance criteria (MAC) will be rejected.

If you have any queries, please contact your local Trust laboratory in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Welsh

Jennifer Welsh
Chief Executive

What are the implications of MAC?

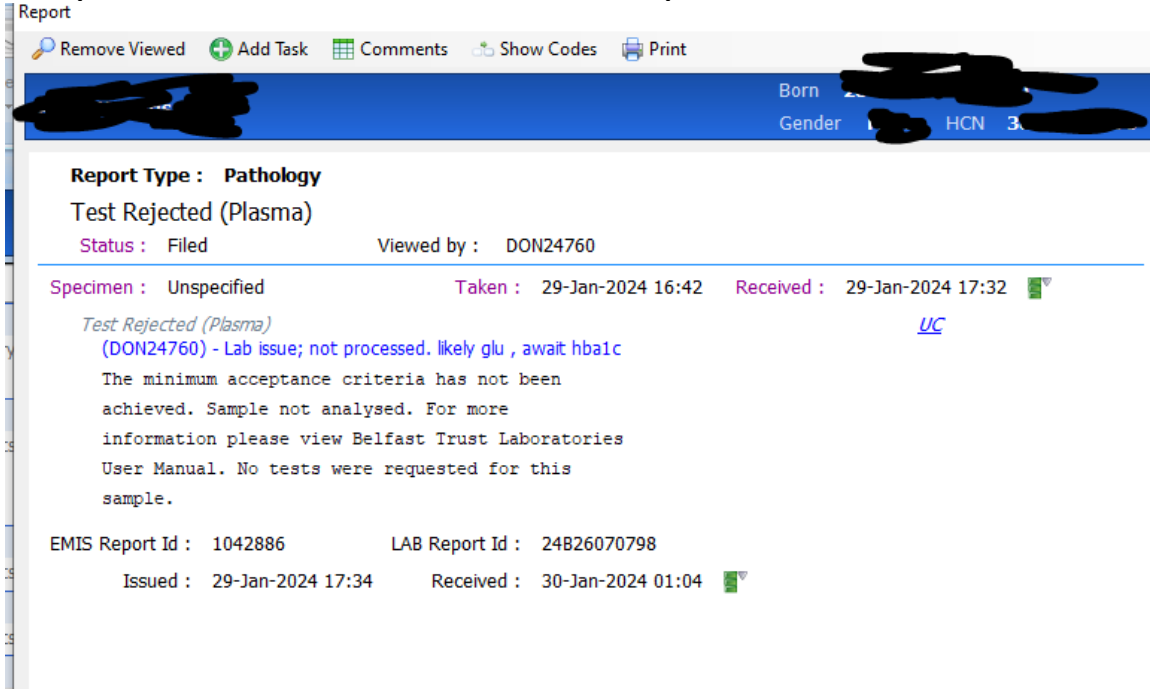
A hard MAC will mean that samples are rejected and don't move to the testing stage

Practices may already see MAC messages about wrong-bottle etc in their GP system

The difficulty is that MAC messages for Unknown Requestor can't route back to Requestor

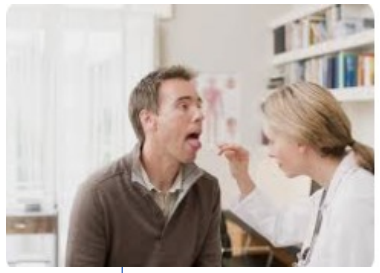
This will create work for practices in retesting

It is in everyone's best interests to avoid MAC rejections



The journey of a lab request and results

HCP decides tests needed
Another HCP does the test
Test sample to lab
Lab does test
Lab system returns result to GP system thru brokerage software
Result also publishes to downstream systems

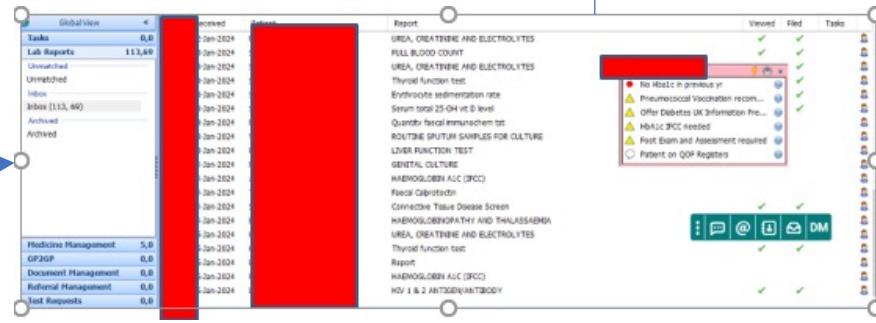


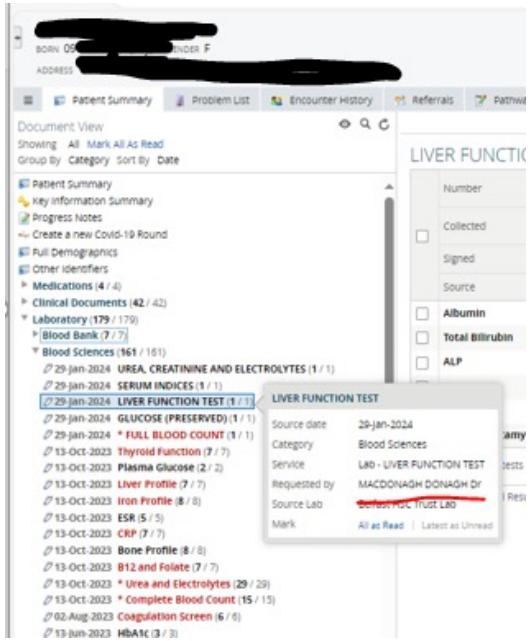












The points of failure

HCP decides tests needed	
Another HCP does the test	Transfer of info to another HCP ; and how that HCP does the work
Completes lab request form	Needs to be completed accurately – Labeltrace PARIS, handwritten
Test sample to lab	
Lab does test	
Lab system returns result to GP system thru brokerage software	If the system doesn't know who the requestor is it can't send back the result
Result also publishes to downstream systems	

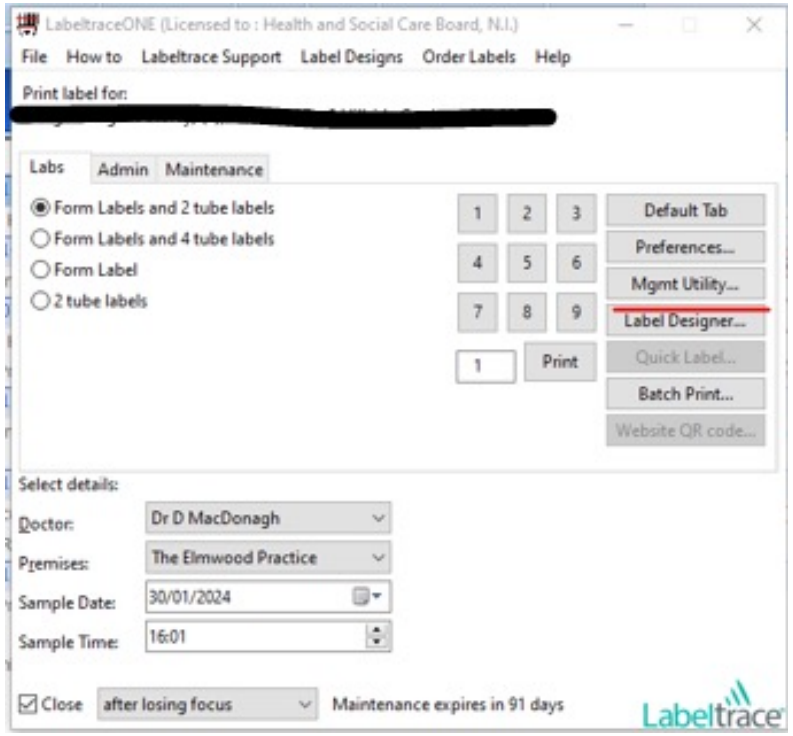
What are the common errors that labs are reporting?

Issue	**Root cause**	**Internal/external to practice**
Retired / incorrect GP cipher on labeltrace	Not keeping practice Labeltrace updated	Internal: Labeltrace One mgmt. utility
Sending tests under unrecognised ciphers (trainee, ANP, nurse)	Prev flexibility in local labs no longer there in NIPIMS	Internal. Needs to stop while NIPIMS beds in (plan to start w ANP ciphers soon)
DNs taking tests OBO GPs	Use of PARIS labels - BT ~~(Epic ordering - SET)~~ Other community systems in NT (LCID) , ST, WT ?	External- being addressed w DN mgmt.
Care home staff taking tests	Incorrect/ incomplete details used by care home staff	External- being addressed w PHA. RQIA

Labeltrace



- Reasonable safeguard
- “ GIGO “
- Has to be maintained at practice



What of the future?

Order comms – orders created with fuller details ready to be drawn down

2ary care Epic

1ary care ?? OBC