



16 TURNAROUND TIMES AND REPORTING

16.1 Turnaround times

As the number of complex cases increases, requiring additional procedures such as immunocytochemistry or second opinions, the longer they will take to be reported. Diagnostic accuracy **will not** be compromised for the sake of speed. An interim verbal report and information on the case status can be provided where necessary by a Consultant Cellular Pathologist. These factors should be taken into consideration when arranging follow up appointments or inclusion of cases at MDT meetings.

TAT's are monitored as one of the departmental quality/performance indicators which are aligned to RCPATH Key Performance Indicators (KPI). RCPATH KPI is to report 80% of diagnostic cases within 7 days and , and 90% reported within 10 calendar days..

Performance is continually monitored, included in corporate reports and able to be provided to referring Trusts in accordance with Service Level Agreements.

Expected Turnaround times (from receipt to report)

Histology	Turnaround	KPI
Frozen Section Histology specimens (from receipt)	20 mins – 1 hour depending on site	RCPATH KPI 80% of cellular pathology samples reported within 7 calendar days , and 90% reported within 10 calendar days
Urgent Histology small specimens (biopsies)	1-2 days	
Urgent Histology large surgical specimens	4-5 days	
Routine Histology small specimens (biopsies)	5-7 days	
Routine Histology (large surgical specimens)	8-10 days	
Lymphoma and Her-2/FISH /CISH	3 weeks (Sent to referral lab)	
Cytology	Turnaround	KPI
Urgent LBC Cervical Cytology specimens	1-3 days	NHSCSP 98% within 14 days
*Routine LBC Cervical Cytology specimens	14 days	
Urgent FNA Cytology specimens	1 hr	RCPATH KPI 80% of cellular pathology samples reported within 7 calendar days , and 90% reported within 10 calendar days
Urgent Non-Gynaecological Cytology specimens	3 hrs for provisional report, by prior arrangement	
Routine Non-Gynaecological Cytology specimens	3-5 days	
Andrology	Turnaround	KPI
Semen Analysis - Infertility	1-7 days	Initial examination within 1 hour WHO 2010 - final report within 7 days
Semen Analysis - Post Vasectomy	1-3 days	Initial examination 4 hours ABA 2016 - final report within 3 days

*In line with the NHSCSP Guidelines the turnaround times from the date the sample is taken to the patient receiving their result letter should be within 14 days.

N.B. Bone specimens and those containing calcium may take considerably longer to turnaround than routine Histology specimens. E.g. Femur head on average takes 7 days.