

NEHODS NEWSLETTER



NEHODS - Northern England Haemato-Oncology Diagnostic Service

Spring/Summer 2026



Save the Date

Our next NHRG meeting will be held on

12th November 2026

at The Mining Institute in Newcastle
(the same venue as previous years)



Haemosys News

There have been two projects undertaken to improve Haemosys reporting. The first, updating the codes based on the new WHO classification, was completed in February 2026.

The second project has required some coordination between NUTH IT and our regional colleagues as we look to move the server that hosts Haemosys. Given the age of the old server, we are expecting a noticeable performance improvement with the new server.

Haemosys Issues

A few users have reported connection issues with Haemosys over the first part of this year. These include timeouts when logging in, or samples not coming across from Haemosys to their LIMS, or vice versa.

Should you experience any issues please contact AES, the suppliers of Haemosys in the first instance via email support@aesmedical.com and copy in NEHODS using nuth.nehods@nhs.net so we can also monitor the situation.

Important Information Governance

Please ensure that you do not share your Haemosys login details. It is essential that you, and only you, use your Haemosys login.

Health & Safety

As we culture cells in NEHODS there is also the risk of co-propagating a pathogen. We need to ensure our staff take the necessary precautions to maintain their safety when receiving and processing the samples.

Please ensure all referrals to NEHODS clearly state in the **CLINICAL DETAILS** where there is a potential hazard and ensure a contact number is included on the form, should we need to request further details. As always, thank you for your cooperation.

NEHODS Contacts

Website: [Northern England Haemato-Oncology Diagnostic Service \(NEHODS\) - Newcastle Hospitals Laboratories](https://www.nhs.uk/services/haemato-oncology-diagnostic-service/)

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Service Improvements

MPN/LPD mini-panel

Our genetics service has introduced a new “MPN/LPD mini-panel,” replacing the previous separate NGS assay performed by Leeds (HMDS). Testing will now be performed more frequently and reported by the Newcastle Cancer Genomics team, which is expected to improve turnaround times and provide enhanced diagnostic capability, particularly for LPL through the addition of targets such as CXCR4. The panel includes key genes for CLL (TP53, BTK, PLCG2, BCL2) with a detection limit of 5% VAF, in line with ERIC guidelines, and additional markers for LPL/WM and related conditions. **A critical requirement is that a full blood count is provided with all samples**, as this informs sample preparation (e.g. CD19 enrichment for low lymphocyte counts) and reduces the risk of false-negative results. Samples will continue to be sent to NEHODS as normal, and reporting formats will remain similar, while further developments (e.g. for myeloma testing) are anticipated.

Myeloma

The myeloma genetics pathway is being enhanced by addressing a key gap in current testing. While existing practice combines FISH and SNP array for classification and risk stratification, it does not detect small but clinically important variants such as small somatic variants of TP53. Work is now underway to introduce additional testing for selected patient groups, expanding the scope of the pathway and improving detection of high-risk disease features.

New Courier for MRD

Following some recent issues with sample deliveries to our referral centres, we have set up a contract with a new partner which should take a day off our transit times for AML and ALL MRD.

Clinical Flow Cytometry Meeting

NEHODS' very own Helen Watson provided an overview of the Flow lab's experience with their new equipment, entitled “Our Transition to the BD FACSLyric™ Flow Cytometer: The Newcastle Experience” at the Waters (formerly BD) Biosciences Clinical Flow Cytometry Meeting on 12th May 2026 in Wilmslow, Cheshire.

...and finally

You may recall that NEHODS were nominated for the IBMS awards for “Team of the Year”. Whilst not being crowned the overall winner at the IBMS event in London, I am sure you will agree they are still winners. This is evidence from the photo from the event where we can see (from left to right), Caroline Shrubsole, Andrew McGregor and Helen Watson looking very dapper. I think that may even be Andrew's winner's speech in his top pocket... just in case.

