



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH – Chemical Pathology / Clinical Biochemistry response to HEE's Strategic Framework Call for Evidence 2021

Chemical Pathologists are already pivotally involved in the provision of direct specialist patient care, notably in diabetes, obesity, lipid disorders, metabolic bone disease and inherited metabolic diseases in Trusts and Health Boards across the UK.

These additional Chemical Pathologists roles are also forecast to experience increasing pressure in the years ahead – as a direct consequence of the increasing prevalence of diabetes, obesity and lipid disorders which will undoubtedly impact heavily on the out-patient services typically led by Chemical Pathologists. This will inevitably lead to more involvement in community provision of services and the education of patients to prevent morbidity.

The UK appears to be in an epidemic of obesity and type 2 diabetes (with lipids becoming important), as well as having novel lipid lowering agents that require specialist prescribing. In at least one area of England, for example, there are large areas with no lipid clinic, potentially denying patients access to life saving medication.