



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH – Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology response to HEE's Strategic Framework Call for Evidence 2021

The biggest challenges from a head and neck/ oral and maxillofacial pathology perspective are:

- Additional work created by increased requirement for molecular testing
- Increased case complexity. This encompasses increasing demand for more detailed reports and an enlarging range of surgical specimens being received due to advances in surgical technique.
- Increasing patient numbers generally, presumably arising from an increasing elderly population and increased awareness of head and neck disease/cancer.

It is currently unknown whether retirements from the subspecialty are balanced with trainee recruitment and unfortunately, given the quick turnaround required, it is not possible to investigate this.

It is possible that some of the above pressures could be alleviated by expanding BMS advanced cut up training nationally.

The implementation of digital pathology could cause some reduction in turnaround time during the implementation phase, but in the long term could allow greater efficiency within the workforce.