

Cellular Pathology – current turnaround time data April 2026

The Royal College of Pathologists, in their document “Key assurance indicators for pathology services – November 2019” state “*Local patient pathways, agreed with requesters, shall include anticipated turnaround times for all relevant laboratory investigations.*”

The locally agreed target for UHS Cellular Pathology is that at least 75% of specimens should be reported within 10 calendar days. These targets will be periodically reviewed, and user feedback sought every 2 years via the user feedback survey to ensure ongoing suitability of these targets.

In collaboration with local service users, UHS Cellular Pathology will publish its aspirational turnaround times (TAT) and provide quarterly updates to users on actual performance against these targets.

Below is a table summarising the % of cases meeting turnaround times. The column on the far right states the number of days taken for 75% of the workload to be reported.

Turnaround times are recorded in calendar days, from the point of the specimen being booked in within our department.

Category	Percentage of Cases meeting turnaround times	Actual turnaround Time (Calendar Days)
Overall Departmental	45.6%	20 days
Histology Biopsies (all specialties)	50%	19 days
Histology Resections	19.6%	23 days
Cytology	89.6%	7 days
Referrals*	68.4%	12 days

* Referral turnaround times are measured from date of receipt not date cases are sent from referral centre.

If you would like more specific data related to your discipline please contact Susan Shaw – Cellular Pathology operations manager (susan.shaw@uhs.nhs.uk).