



Partnership with the NHS Award

In recognition of the successful rollout of the symptomatic Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) service at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

On Thursday 2nd December 2021, at the Annual MediWales conference in Cardiff, Alpha Laboratories was declared the winner of the Partnership with NHS Award, sponsored by the Life Science Hub. This was in recognition of the industry partnership with the Clinical Biochemistry team at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB), resulting in the successful rollout of their symptomatic Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) service.

In 2018, Alpha Laboratories was the industry partner for CTMUHB Clinical Biochemistry team's application for the Health Technology Award from the Bevan Commission. This allowed the Clinical Biochemistry department to develop a symptomatic FIT service, originally planned for rollout to primary care users in line with NICE DG30 guidance.

The Clinical Biochemistry team from CTMUHB contacted and received feedback from several patient groups including Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil, North Wales Cancer Patient Forum, Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancer Research UK.

Developed with Patient Feedback

Patient feedback was important to ensure that the patient packs developed in partnership with Alpha Laboratories were acceptable to the target patient group. These packs include the sample collection device alongside bespoke Instructions For Use and Patient Information Sheets designed to encourage compliance and correct undertaking of the test.

Following the patient feedback Alpha Laboratories then worked in partnership with the Clinical Biochemistry team to develop a pack which met their requirements. Demonstration patient packs were provided to enable the Clinical Biochemistry team to present to the Primary Care cluster group meetings. Bilingual All Wales documentation was then created for use in the patient packs.

HM-JACKarc Analyser

The FIT test was established and verified using the HM-JACKarc analyser in CTMUHB and was accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation service (ISO 15189) in November 2018.

Throughout this partnership, Alpha Laboratories has provided additional support for the pilot GP project, alongside ongoing service and application support for the full service roll out across several health boards who use the analytical service provided by CTMUHB.

Since becoming fully UKAS accredited CTMUHB now runs FIT samples using the HM-JACKarc analyser provided by Alpha Laboratories for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area, Swansea Bay UHB, Hywel Dda UHB, and the Swansea based CRaFT Study.

Supporting Decreased Endoscopy Capacity

In addition to the use of symptomatic FIT in primary care, FIT has also been used during COVID-19 to help support decreased endoscopy capacity. By using FIT to triage patients it can help reduce colonoscopy waiting lists, and by directing patients to more appropriate management e.g. outpatient review and more recently, the urgent cancer pathway and rapid diagnostic clinics.

Multi-disciplinary Collaboration

Professor John Geen is the Clinical Lead for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board's Clinical Biochemistry Service. In conjunction with clinical colleagues in Gastroenterology, Surgery, Endoscopy and Primary care they have taken a multi-disciplinary and multi-professional approach to the implementation of FIT in the Symptomatic Service at CTMUHB.

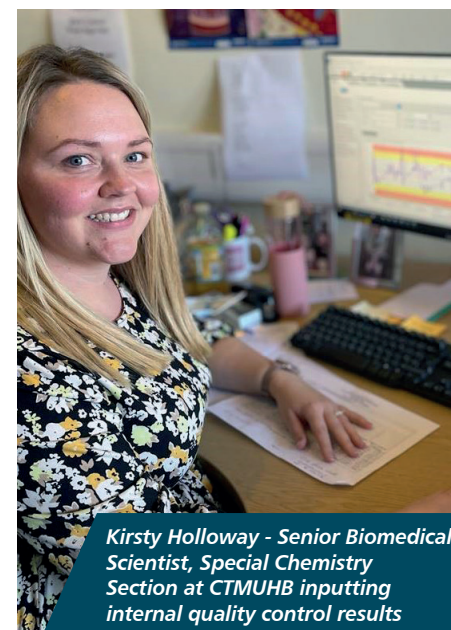
"The collaborative approach taken in the development of the FIT service has been possible through the shared values, aims and objectives of the whole team. Good communication and a shared enthusiasm for this important development from all stakeholders was a key factor.

Through a laboratory based project, the input from patients and the third sector in the development of the information and guidance shared with the patients was also critical to include a bi-lingual approach.

The interpretation of the FIT result and the subsequent patient management has been optimised through the development of robust local diagnostic pathways and integrated safety netting. These were co-produced across Cwm Taf Morgannwg being cognisant of the recommended clinical guidance to include the "National Framework for the Implementation of FIT in the Symptomatic Service" in Welsh Health boards (March 2021).

Through team working, a robust and resilient Symptomatic FIT service has been developed at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board".

For more information, visit our website
faecal-immunochemical-test.co.uk



Kirsty Holloway - Senior Biomedical Scientist, Special Chemistry Section at CTMUHB inputting internal quality control results

Best Service to Patients

The FIT service in CTMUHB is run by a great team all working together to provide the best possible service to patients.

Jaynion Hampton is the FIT coordinator at CTMUHB.

"As the FIT coordinator in Biochemistry CTMUHB I organise the FIT process from beginning to end. This includes monitoring the email accounts where primary and secondary care patient FIT request forms are sent to and arranging for FIT packs to be sent out directly to the patient. If a FIT sample has not been returned within 2 weeks the requestor is then notified via email to query the delay in receiving the completed sample back from the patient.

Once the samples are received, they are booked onto the LIMS and analysed on the HM-JACKarc system. All results > 10 ug/g Hb are emailed directly to the Integrated Locality Group (ILG) specific endoscopy unit to be acted upon urgently. I am proud to be part of the CTMUHB FIT service that aids in the early diagnosis of colorectal cancer in patients"

Kirsty Holloway is the Special Chemistry Section Leader at CTMUHB.

"As the senior biomedical scientist in charge of special testing at CTMUHB, part of my role is to oversee the daily processes involved in FIT testing carried out by our FIT coordinator Jaynion. I make sure that all internal and external quality controls analysed are within an acceptable range which confirms the reliability of results being sent out to patients. I also ensure that Jaynion has all the stock required to run the HM-JACK smoothly by placing orders with Alpha Laboratories"

References:

National Endoscopy Programme.
National Framework for the Implementation of FIT in the Symptomatic Service. For Welsh Health Boards: 17.03.21; Version 1.

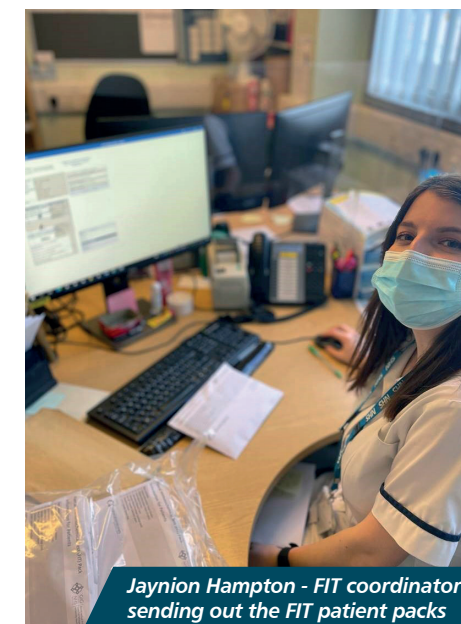


Founded in 1992, MediWales is the independent life science network for Wales, a not-for-profit limited company.

Working on behalf of the Welsh life science sector, creating business opportunities and partnerships for their members, supporting global trade development, improving access to vital clinical expertise and engaging with government to align support with sector needs.

They support over 180 members from the medical technology, diagnostic and pharmaceutical industries, NHS health boards, university departments and professional services and suppliers.

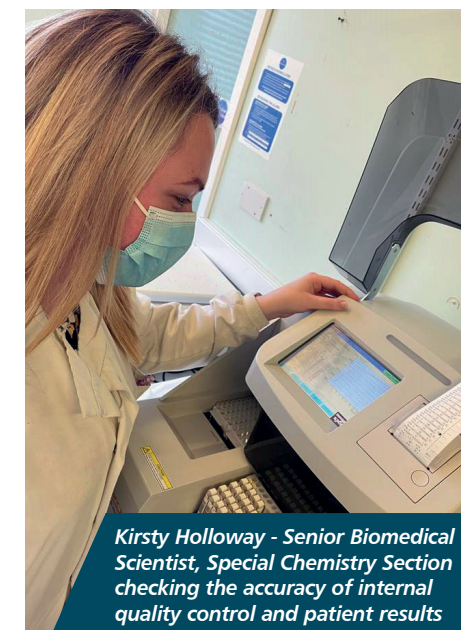
2021 marked the sixteenth MediWales annual awards ceremony and conference.



Jaynion Hampton - FIT coordinator sending out the FIT patient packs



Jaynion Hampton - FIT coordinator running the HM-JACKarc analyser



Kirsty Holloway - Senior Biomedical Scientist, Special Chemistry Section checking the accuracy of internal quality control and patient results