

PRESS RELEASE

Lab Tests Online UK relaunches to help patients make sense of their test results

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LONDON, 25 March 2026:

Pathology tests are essential for patient care across the NHS and are required for ~70% of clinical decisions regarding diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring together with patient screening for the prevention of various conditions. Around 2 billion pathology tests are undertaken annually, which equates to roughly 20 tests per person, every year.

Patients need information on these tests to better understand the need for them as part of their healthcare, supporting informed decision making and helping them engage in shared decision-making with clinicians.

Patients across the UK are also gaining increasing access to their health records and test results through digital services such as the NHS App in England and GP online systems. With more care delivered in the community, patients are also playing a more active role in managing their health.

Many people turn to the internet for health information, where sources are not always clear or reliable. Lab Tests Online UK (LTO) (<https://labtestsonline.org.uk>) has relaunched its website following a major redevelopment to provide patients with clear, trusted explanations of laboratory tests and results.

The site's design, structure and user experience has been transformed introducing a cleaner layout, simplified navigation and improved accessibility. It aims to help patients and members of the public find trusted information about laboratory tests more easily and better understand what their results may mean. All content on the site is written, reviewed and updated by subject experts in laboratory medicine and is professionally peer reviewed.

The redevelopment follows a programme of research with patients and a content review led by the LTO Board in partnership with digital agency William Joseph. The project also benefited from insights from an NIHR-funded study conducted by the Universities of Bristol and Manchester exploring how patients access and interpret their test results.

Dr Danielle Freedman, Chair of the Lab Tests Online UK Board, said: "As more people see their test results online, it's vital they can access clear and reliable explanations. Lab Tests Online UK brings the expertise of laboratory medicine directly to patients and the public."

The redevelopment was made possible through a partnership between the Association for Laboratory Medicine (LabMed) with the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH), who supported the investment required to rebuild the site.

Notes for Editors:

About Lab Tests Online

1. Lab Tests Online UK is a free website providing clear, reliable information about laboratory tests for patients and the public. The



site explains why tests are used, how samples are collected and what results may mean.

2. The website is owned and managed by the Association for Laboratory Medicine (LabMed). It is supported with funding contributions from the Royal College of Pathologists and the Institute of Biomedical Science.
3. The Chair of the Lab Tests Online Board is Dr Danielle Freedman, Consultant Chemical Pathologist and Deputy Medical Director, Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
4. The Lab Tests Online Editor is Dr Alan Deacon, who is National Pathology Programme Lead for NHS Performance and Improvement. Alan works with a volunteer team of reviewers to make sure the content is regularly reviewed and kept up to date.
5. All information on the site is written, validated and updated by laboratory scientists and medicine professionals and is professionally peer reviewed.
6. The Lab Tests Online Board and review team includes representative from the Association for Laboratory Medicine, the Royal College of Pathologists and the Institute of Biomedical Science as well as patient representatives.
7. Lab Tests Online UK was established in 2004 through a partnership between the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and the Association for Clinical Biochemistry (ACB), with funding from the UK Department of Health and the Health Foundation. Ownership

of the UK site transferred to ACB (now the Association for Laboratory Medicine) in 2022 after AACC sold the Lab Tests Online brand.

About the Association for Laboratory Medicine

1. The Association for Laboratory Medicine (LabMed) is the leading professional association and trade union supporting the practice and development of science in healthcare and laboratory medicine.
2. LabMed has membership from clinical scientist and medics working in biochemistry, immunology and microbiology in the United Kingdom and internationally and works to promote the highest standards in laboratory testing and patient care.

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Images and screenshots of the redesigned website are available on request.

