

Darent Valley Hospital Dartford

Case Study

Overview

Darent Valley Hospital is a 478-bed, acute district general hospital in Dartford, Kent. Darent Valley Hospital is one of the largest hospital trusts in North Kent, with services at three sites serving a local population of over 500,000 people.

In September 2020, Darent Valley implemented the SQA-Vision to automate their semen analysis and enable them to process more patients with better results.

Implementation of the SQA-Vision enabled Darent Valley to increase their patient capacity and help to reduce the backlog of patients waiting for their semen analysis and fertility treatment.

What problems were you facing?

What made you decide to choose the SQA Vision for your hospital?

We had been using manual microscopy for years to provide infertility semen analysis and post vas screening to patient in the Medway, Swale, Dartford and Gravesham area. This process worked well but took a lot longer and was more hands on than automating the service.

Sadie Mitchell (Senior BMS)

How did the solution help?

What are the benefits of automated semen analysis using the SQA Vision?

The SQA Vision provides easy to use software compared with using other CASA systems. Most of the testing can be done via one capillary which is easier to load meaning less experienced members of staff can still run the testing.

Automation provides the option to capture photos and videos of the samples so these can be reviewed by Consultants at a later date. When given the opportunity to choose an automated alternative to our previous methods, the SQA Vision fitted perfectly for our lab. A compact system with lots of available options.

How has implementing the Vision impacted the Andrology service?

It has improved turnaround times for patients and allowed us to increase the number of patients we book into the clinics, starting to reduce the backlog of patients requiring semen analysis. It has also provided a cost saving on consumables and staffing cost.

But most of all it is allowing us to provide consistent and reliable results to all patients. Automation has also allowed recording of QC results.

Can you provide an example of how the SQA Vision has helped you better manage your laboratory workload?

We run our service two days per week so it has enabled us to see more patients over the clinic times. We have booked appointments which allows us to improve the quality of the service so people are not waiting around.

Sadie Mitchell (Senior BMS)

How was the technology received?

How have the SQA Vision parameters helped you advance andrology reporting?

We are able to provide service users with results that are appropriate to the most up to date WHO guidelines.

We can also be sure of our results as the instrument is checked daily with QC to ensure that every result is accurate and not subject to interpretation.

Sadie Mitchell (Senior BMS)

What has your experience been working with AB Scientific?

We have formed a great partnership with AB Scientific. They have provided us with great training but also excellent knowledge based support.

They were able to review our verification data and present it back to us in graph format to make it easy to understand. Nothing is too much for the team at AB Scientific and they are always happy to help and support with anything we need.

Sadie Mitchell (Senior BMS)



Outcome

The andrology team are really pleased to have an SQA Vision for semen analysis. Touch screen and easy to use software make our lives much easier when doing our semen analysis.

The capillaries are really easy to handle and using the liquefaction and vitality kits makes analysing a patient sample very simple.

Overall we have had a great experience with AB Scientific and the SQA Vision technology and we are very glad we have implemented it.



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