

Better Sharing of Lab Results



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TestSafe South is a secure online database that can be used to access patient lab results. The West Coast DHB recently introduced TestSafe South, and South Canterbury DHB, as well as West Coast DHB is working in partnership with Canterbury to introduce it starting next month.

This means laboratory results from tests performed at one district health board will become immediately available online to hospital clinicians working at West Coast, Canterbury and South Canterbury DHBs.

There are also plans to use TestSafe South to make test results available to the patient's General Practitioner further down the track.

Sharing lab results will improve and speed up patient care, especially when patients are transferred by helicopter from Grey Base Hospital in Greymouth to Christchurch Hospital in an emergency. The results of lab tests carried out at Grey Base Hospital will be immediately available to doctors in Christchurch.

It will also help in situations where Christchurch patients are treated at Grey Base Hospital, or West Coast patients are referred to specialists in Christchurch for further advice or treatment. Up to now, doctors and nurses only had some of the test results available to them.

"The value of having the full picture of a patient's tests in front of a doctor or nurse at the point of care is huge," says South Canterbury DHB chief medical officers Bill Taine. "It will lead to more appropriate care and less duplication of lab tests."

The ability to see Christchurch results will advantage those patients who present at Grey Base Hospital with a problem after treatment in Christchurch. It will be much more of an advantage to the GP referred-patient as well, as there will not be any duplication of previous tests.

[Information about the introduction of TestSafe South at Canterbury DHB](#)

[General information about TestSafe South](#)

For more information about what is happening at the West Coast DHB contact:

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