



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

# The Modernisation of Laboratory Medicine Services in Ireland: safeguarding quality during times of service reconfiguration

IEQAS Annual Conference

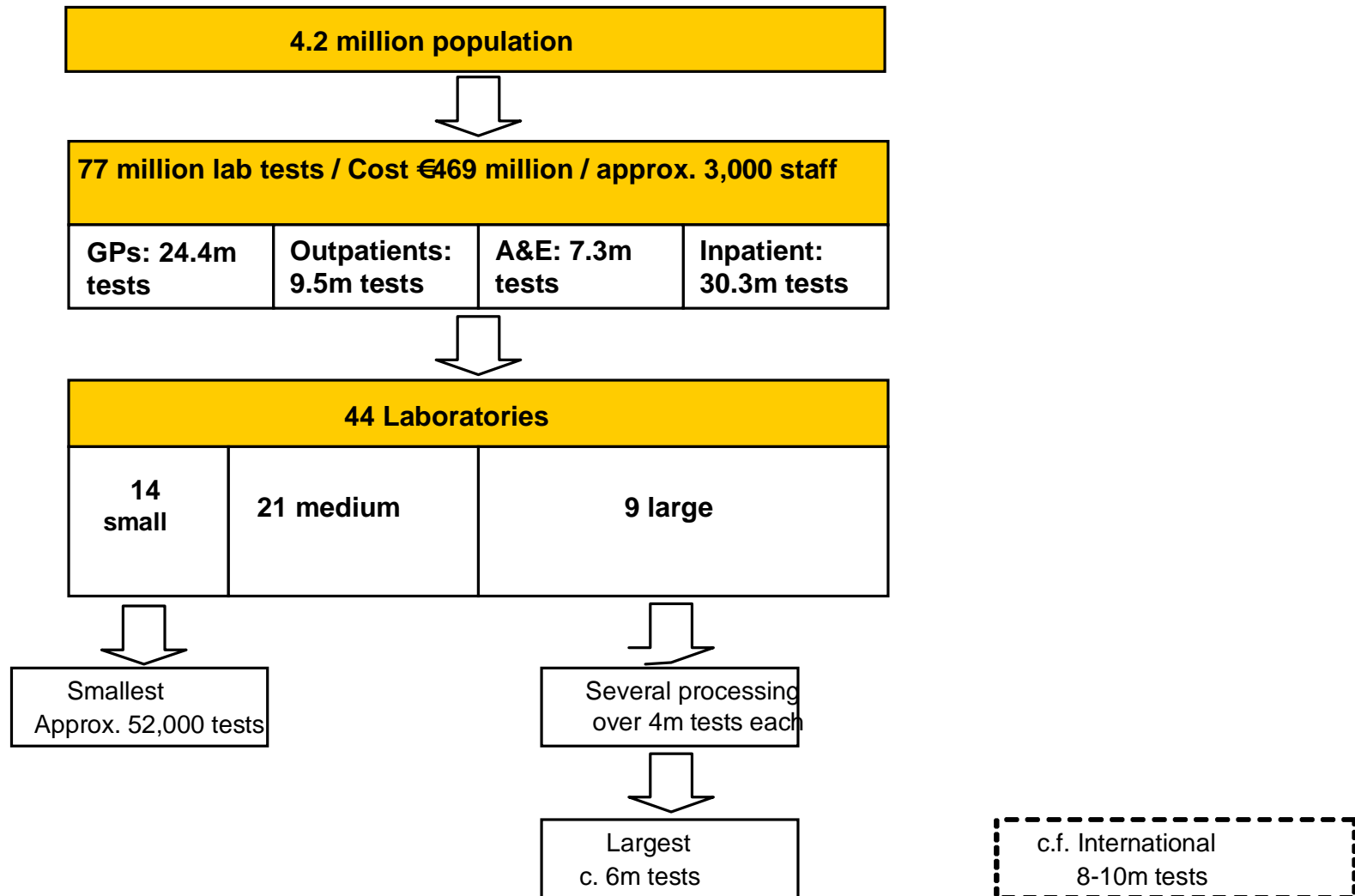
Louis Fitzgerald Hotel

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Mr. Martin McDonald

Head of Workforce Planning & Professional Development, HSE

# How many laboratories are required to provide a high quality pathology service?



Source: Teamwork report (2007) & RKW EC Harris Report (2009)

# REVIEW OF HSE PUBLIC HEALTH / PUBLIC ANALYST LABORATORY SERVICES



## 3 Public Analyst Laboratories

- Dublin
- Cork
- Galway

## 7 Public Health /Official Food Microbiology Laboratories

- Dublin (2)
- Cork
- Waterford
- Limerick
- Galway
- Sligo

# LIMITATIONS OF PRESENT CONFIGURATION



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- Fragmented over many sites
- Monday / Friday (9-5) with expensive on-call
- Overtime to process routine workload
- Rigid clinical disciplines
- Outdated IT systems
- Poor physical infrastructure
- Expensive

# CURRENT SYSTEM QUALITY RISKS

- Few laboratories have achieved accreditation in all disciplines
- Lack of a unique patient identifier
- Unsatisfactory laboratory information systems
- Suboptimal collection logistics
- Limited electronic reporting of GP results
- Disease specific protocols are not in place for best practice test requesting

# APPROACH BEING TAKEN BY HSE



- Laboratory Services Modernisation & Technical groups established
- Structure supported by the appointment of a Programme Director and Business Manager
- Public Private Partnership for capital
- Revert to HSE ownership
- Opportunity to drive improved service quality and efficiency

# KEY ELEMENTS OF A NEW SYSTEM

- “Cold” Laboratories
- “Hot” Laboratories
- “Point-of-Care” testing

System supported by:

- Accreditation
- End-to-end I.T. infrastructure
- Logistics & transport infrastructure

# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Engagement with internal & external stakeholders
- Data analysis underway
- Moving to finalise scope definition
- Business case to be finalised
- Change in the way the system operates is coming regardless
- That change has to be driven by quality, safety and standards