

# Primary care matters

## GP Newsletter

### Welcome

On 4 July we learned that the paediatric cardiac unit at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children (BRHC) is to become a nationally designated Paediatric Cardiac Surgical Centre. This follows the Safe and Sustainable review of paediatric cardiac services which sees the number of surgical centres reduce to just seven throughout England. This is a fantastic achievement for the Trust and local families, and reflects the high quality of our service and the excellent outcomes we are now achieving, which are ranked the third best in England.



The Bristol service employs three surgeons, seven cardiology consultants and utilises extensive multi-disciplinary support services including a 15-bed paediatric general intensive care unit. It works successfully as the hub surgical centre in a network that extends across the South West and South Wales, enabling us to care for children from a wide geographic region, in partnership with their referring hospitals. We will work to strengthen and extend our existing networks to ensure we are well placed to support children and families wherever they live.

One of the ways we can do this is to make sure that children have access to information about their treatment before they come to hospital. We have recently launched an interactive website designed to communicate directly with young patients due to attend the BRHC. The easy to follow interactive site provides information and answers to questions that young patients and their families might have about what they can expect at the BRHC. Children are guided around the site by a friendly cartoon character and can learn about preparing to come to hospital, daily routines, operations and tests. The new site can be viewed at [www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/kids](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/kids)

Deborah Lee  
Director of Strategic Development

## Update on cancer standards

The Trust has achieved its best ever cancer performance reported in a month for April, the official submission shows.

Our figures confirm that we met all of the national cancer waiting times standards in the month. Performance against the 62 day wait, from urgent GP referral for a suspected cancer to treatment, was 92.7% against the 85% national standard. This is the best performance ever reported in a month.

There have been a number of local and national health awareness campaigns over the past three months, including bowel and bladder cancers. Most recently there have been a series of television, radio and newspaper adverts raising awareness of possible symptoms of lung cancer. We have been monitoring levels of urgent suspected

cancer referrals from GPs and have seen a slight increase in suspected lung cancer referrals in recent weeks. Additional outpatient appointments have been planned to cope with an increase in demand; we expect to continue to see all patients referred within the national standard of two weeks, and for any patients needing to have diagnostic tests to have these done promptly.

We are expecting to confirm that all national cancer standards were met in May. While we know we will be reporting a few more breaches of the cancer waiting times standards in June, mostly due to patient choice to wait to start treatment after the bank holidays and also some medical deferrals, overall we are expecting to report all the cancer standards were achieved for the first quarter of the year.

## Bristol Heart Institute trials new high blood pressure treatment

Doctors at the Bristol Heart Institute (BHI) are the first in the South West to offer patients with high blood pressure the opportunity to control their condition with a new type of treatment called renal denervation through a research study.

Dr Angus Nightingale and Dr Andreas Baumbach are working with Professor Julian Paton from the University of Bristol and Professor Steven Harper from the Richard Bright Renal Unit on the new procedure, which involves

severing the nerves that connect the kidneys to the brain and carry signals to control blood pressure. A wire is passed into the patient's blood vessels feeding the kidney and the tip of the wire is heated to burn the nerves running along the outside of the vessel.

Around 10- 20% of patients with high blood pressure are unable to reach their target blood pressure even though they have been prescribed drug treatments. Renal denervation may help these patients.

## New Ambulatory Care Unit opens

On 6 July we opened a new clinical facility, the Ambulatory Care Unit (ACU). Created by locating the GP Support Unit, Thrombosis Service and the Pathology Day Unit together, the ACU allows us to bring together hospital and primary care services more closely, which we hope will encourage greater cross-over of services. The space will also be used for Brisdoc's out-of-hours GP service.

The new unit, which can be found on level 4 of the BRI Queen's Building, will provide care and treatment for patients to help avoid unnecessary hospital admissions during the day, and offer GP services in the evening and at weekends. We aim to develop more services and pathways in the future using the ACU as the base.

All telephone and fax numbers remain the same for the individual services. The lead nurse for the unit is Emma Kinnaird ([emma.kinnaird@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:emma.kinnaird@uhbristol.nhs.uk))

As the UH Bristol division with lead responsibility for services at South Bristol Community Hospital, the Division of Medicine is also working to build close links with the urgent care centre at the new hospital to develop more outpatient and day case services.

## Hospital shuttle bus relaunches with more frequent service

From 31 July the hospital and university bus shuttle (HUBS) will no longer be operated in partnership with the University of Bristol. From 6 August 2012 a new service will be launched which will provide a free bus shuttle service from Bristol Temple Meads every 24 minutes and a free bus shuttle service from Cabot Circus every 12 minutes – more frequent than before.

The service will stop at all stops currently served by the HUBS and Cabot



Circus shuttles, excluding the Hawthorns and the Marriott Hotel.

More information about how to travel to our hospitals can be found on the Trust website at [www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/travelling-to-and-from-our-hospitals/](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/travelling-to-and-from-our-hospitals/)

## Building a Better Bristol

Patients and families visiting UH Bristol will notice a lot of building work going on across our hospitals at the moment, especially around the main entrance to the Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI), our Emergency Department and at the entrances to the Bristol Heart Institute, as we make major improvements to our hospital site.

A new ward block being built behind the BRI Queen's Building and due for completion in 2014, will include an integrated assessment unit, a purpose built short stay unit, a state-of-the-art intensive care unit, a surgical floor, a medical floor and a helipad on the roof of the BRI.

The new ward block will allow us to move all the beds and wards out of the BRI Old Building which no longer meet the accommodation standards that patients and staff both expect and deserve. Inpatient services will also be transferred from the King Edward Building, which currently houses inpatient wards for urology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, vascular surgery and a medical short stay unit.

Full planning permission was granted in June for a new welcome centre at the entrance to the BRI Queen's Building on Upper Maudlin Street. The front of the building will be built out towards the road with a two storey extension creating a new entrance near to where it is now. An entrance concourse will lead into the reception area where patients and visitors will have access to a range of facilities such as a patient information centre, outpatient booking service, patient support and complaints centre, pharmacy, a café, newsagent and a food retailer.

Prior to submitting the planning application the Trust spoke to hospital users and the local community to gain their views on the design and layout of the centre. The Trust will start work on the welcome centre this summer and it is expected to be completed in Autumn 2013.

