

# Primary Care Matters

## Practice Staff Newsletter

## Welcome



Welcome to the October issue of our Practice Staff Newsletter. This month we have begun to see an increase in the number of patients coming to our A&E departments, particularly over the weekends. We are currently on track to achieve the 4 hour target this month, but this position may prove difficult to maintain.

The Trust is especially pleased to have achieved the lowest risk rating in the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) first Intelligent Monitoring Report. Ensuring the quality of our services and the safety of our patients is our constant focus, and so we are very pleased that University Hospitals Bristol has achieved the lowest possible risk rating (band 6), with an overall risk score of 3 out of a possible 162. Just 37 of the 161 acute and specialist trusts included in the report achieved this rating and UH Bristol was the only trust in the West of England to achieve this rating. The Trust is not, however, complacent, and our forward focus will be to maintain this strong profile.

A great example of the Trust's focus on quality was reflected recently in an award to the Rheumatology Team who achieved the 'Best Practice' award from the British Society of Rheumatology for their redesigned rheumatoid arthritis care pathway.

The pathway was the culmination of a lot of hard work by the whole rheumatology multidisciplinary team. Throughout the development process they had input from patients and we are now proud to have a pathway that is robustly evidence-based, patient-friendly, and in line with national guidelines.

Finally, inquests into the deaths of two children at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children will commence shortly with the first scheduled to start in mid-November. The Trust has worked closely with the Coroner and her team to ensure the factors contributing to the deaths of these children can be fully examined, and importantly, any learning for the Trust identified and rapidly implemented. A recent CQC inspection of the paediatric cardiac ward, alongside published mortality data, confirm that the service is meeting all essential CQC standards and delivering good outcomes for children. Media coverage is anticipated during the inquest and additional information and support will be available for families and staff during this time. If you have any concerns that you want to discuss with a member of the clinical or management teams please email [paediatriccardiacservices@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:paediatriccardiacservices@uhbristol.nhs.uk)

Deborah Lee  
Director of Strategic  
Development

Dates for 2014 GP workshops and update to clinical document service

Following the success of our first GP workshops held in June and July of this year, and participants' feedback that they would welcome more opportunities to meet in this way, we will be holding a second round of workshops on Thursday 6 and Tuesday 11 February 2014 at UH Bristol.

Further information will be available in due course, but please put these dates in your diaries. During the first round of workshops participants were asked to comment on what they liked about working with UH Bristol, where they felt the Trust could do better, and areas where practices felt they could help the Trust improve its services. This helped us develop an action plan which is now available at [www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/gpcomms](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/gpcomms). If you have any ideas for discussion at the next workshops, please contact [gpliaison@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:gpliaison@uhbristol.nhs.uk).

We're continuing to make progress with the action plan and next month we will be rolling out an update to our Clinical Document Service (CDS). This update will automatically convert all documents downloaded from CDS into PDFs, which are much faster to download. Discharge summaries are already available in PDF and you should find that these download much quicker than clinic letters currently. For any queries about CDS please contact [cdshelp@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:cdshelp@uhbristol.nhs.uk).

### Flu vaccinations for people with cancer

We have had some enquiries from GPs relating to flu vaccinations for people with cancer. Generally, people with cancer are recommended to have the flu vaccine at least two weeks before starting treatment or between their chemotherapy cycles, and then yearly. Depending on the type of cancer and treatment, the vaccine may not be quite as effective.

The shingles vaccine is contraindicated in patients receiving immunosuppressive therapy. If you have any queries regarding patients on treatment, particularly if they are acutely unwell, please contact BHOC Acute Care on 0117 342 2021.

## Change of address

MEMO have recently moved, our new address is:  
Medical Equipment Management Organisation  
(MEMO)  
31 Tyndalls Park Road  
Clifton  
BRISTOL  
BS8 1PH

Contact: Mike Kay – business manager  
Tel: 0117 342 6725  
Fax: 0117 342 6722  
Mobile: 07778 000 180

Please also note our technical team “Biomed Services EM6” supporting GPs will be relocating to the same site from early November, so if you have any ad-hoc medical equipment repairs we would look forward to seeing you.  
Central Response Centre: 0117 342 3333  
email: [memocentralresponse@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:memocentralresponse@uhbristol.nhs.uk)  
[www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/memo](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/memo)

## Bristol Gamma Knife Centre opens to patients

Bristol Gamma Knife Centre at Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre has begun treating its first patients. This new facility is the first of its kind outside London and the North of England and will benefit patients with acoustic neuroma, meningioma, pituitary tumours, brain metastases, trigeminal neuralgia and vascular abnormalities, many of whom currently need to travel to Sheffield for treatment.

Dr Alison Cameron, lead clinician for Gamma Knife, says: “Intracranial stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) is a highly advanced, precise, technical radiotherapy treatment for brain tumours and other brain disorders. Our clinical team already have a wealth of experience treating patients successfully with SRS for the past 11 years using the traditional LINAC (Linear accelerator) based radiotherapy system. The new Gamma Knife ‘perfexion’ will allow the service to develop so that patients who would have had to be referred elsewhere for treatment can now be treated in Bristol.”

“Gamma Knife is a very precise machine that can deliver SRS in the brain. It uses 192 tiny beams of radiotherapy from cobalt-60 sources which are focused on the abnormality in the brain. The Gamma Knife ‘perfexion’ has very advanced technology and software, allowing the team to conform the radiotherapy beams to the abnormality being treated. This results in the lesion receiving a very high dose of radiotherapy with a very steep drop off into the surrounding area, so that normal brain tissue receives minimal dose, and therefore reduced side effects.

“Currently, we’re treating 90 patients per year,” she notes. “With Perfexion we expect to treat 160 patients

## Do you have patients suffering from axillary hyperhidrosis?

For the past nine years we have been running Botox clinics at the BRI, specifically for the treatment of axillary hyperhidrosis. Increasingly few patients are able to secure NHS funding; in response to this, and in recognition of the debilitating impact on patients who suffer with this condition, we continue to offer the service on a self-funded basis and charge £357 for treatment.

If you have patients with axillary hyperhidrosis who require treatment please send a full medical and drug history with your patient referral to:

Jude Day  
Vascular clinical nurse specialist  
Vascular Studies Unit  
Level 2, Balloon Corridor  
Bristol Royal Infirmary  
BS2 8HW  
Phone: 0117 342 2014  
Fax: 0117 342 2443

in the first year and 200 patients yearly from the second year on.”

Mr Nik Patel, consultant neurosurgeon at North Bristol NHS Trust, said: “Bristol Gamma Knife Centre will offer a minimally invasive, precise and safer alternative way to treat many brain conditions, and is certainly going to complement the other advanced neurosurgical treatments offered at Frenchay Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust. The unit implementation certainly represents a great success, not only for the region, but the dynamic cross-city collaboration between the two trusts.”

Matthew Clapham (pictured below) was one of first patients to be treated by the Gamma Knife at the BHOC. He said: “I was quite nervous when it was first discussed but Dr Cameron was brilliant and explained what would happen and I received a lot of information, which enabled me to understand a lot more about the process and put my mind at rest. I think the treatment is absolutely incredible.”

