

Primary care matters

Practice staff newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the August edition of our practice staff newsletter.



Deborah Lee,
Deputy Chief Executive

On 9 September, we are welcoming an inspection team from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to our hospitals. The CQC team will look in detail at eight key service areas across the Trust - A&E; medical care (including frail elderly); surgery; critical care; maternity; paediatrics; end of life care and outpatients.

This is a planned inspection under the CQC's new regime of comprehensive, in-depth review of services, informed by consultation with local people, and will be the first time this approach has been used in Bristol since it was trialled nationally by the CQC last year.

We take pride in the care we deliver and we are keen to showcase our services to the CQC, but we also hope to learn where we can make further improvements for the

benefit of patients through the insights we will glean from their "fresh eyes".

Finally, there have been two very important milestones in the Trusts redevelopment programme. The first new wards, in the BRI were occupied by our specialist surgical patients. The new 32 bedded wards, offer state of the art equipment and environments but as importantly, they will enable staff to transform the way they deliver care and in doing so, deliver a range of important patient benefits.

The long awaited planning permission was recently granted for the proposed redesign of the Bristol Royal Infirmary's frontage. The redesign forms part of the redevelopment of the hospital with the aim of creating a positive first impression of the Trust given that we know that many of our patients and visitors do "judge the book, by its cover". The design, named 'Veil', by Spanish architects Nieto Sobejano, was one of six submissions put forward in an international competition run by University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (UH Bristol) in 2012/3. Work on the new façade is expected to start later this year.

Vascular Services and AAA Screening move

In October 2014, the Bristol Bath & Weston AAA Screening Programme office is moving, along with the vascular service, to the new Major Arterial Centre at Southmead Hospital.

Since April 2013, Public Health England has commissioned this screening programme from University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. From 6 October, North Bristol Trust will take over the programme. NBT will also hold the contract with NHS England for both elective and emergency inpatient vascular surgery.

The Major Arterial Centre at Southmead brings together 10 vascular surgeons, nine interventional radiologists and specialist vascular nurses from across Bristol, Bath and Weston. The inpatient service will be delivered from a 39 bedded vascular ward and NBT has invested in the installation of a state-of-the-art

'hybrid' operating theatre to allow patients with abdominal aortic aneurysms to be treated with the latest endovascular techniques. AAA Screening will continue in GP practices and community hospitals close to where patients live.

Cossham Community Hospital, Bristol Royal Infirmary, South Bristol Community Hospital, Royal United Hospital Bath and Weston General Hospital will continue to deliver outpatient clinics and diagnostics, including vascular studies, so for most patients the 'front door' to the vascular service will remain their local hospital.

Only if they require arterial surgery will this care be transferred to the Major Arterial Centre at Southmead to ensure that this is of the standard that will ensure they have access to the very best care and chance of the very best outcomes.

The AAA screening programme

would welcome approaches from any practice that could accommodate our screening technicians for a small number of clinics per year. For more information, please contact Steve Seaton on 0117 342 1480 or email steve.seaton@nhs.net

Bristol Health Partners' Season of Health 2014

From September to November 2014, a Season of Health is running in Bristol, offering a varied and exciting programme of events that explore health in Bristol and nationally. The series of events is being organised by a various organisations, including Bristol Health Partners, and includes UH Bristol's participation in Bristol Doors Open Day 2014. For more information, see [here](#).

Bristol Doors Open Day

On Saturday 13 September, UH Bristol will open up three parts of its estate for Bristol Doors Open Day 2014.

The three buildings are: the recently refurbished and extended Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre, levels 3 and 4 of Bristol Royal Infirmary (currently under construction - pre-booked tours only) and the Central Health Clinic.

The BHOC is open from 10am to 2pm, and the Central Health Clinic is open from 12pm to 4pm. Please see [this link](#) for more information and how to book.



South West Cleft team moves to UH Bristol

The South West Cleft team is moving from North Bristol NHS Trust and their site at Frenchay Hospital to UH Bristol and a new home at the University of Bristol Dental Hospital, on 26 and 27 August.

This means outpatient appointments will take place in a newly refurbished clinical area, and the team will be based in a space close by.

Outpatient appointments will start in the second week in September. Inpatient care for children is already provided by Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, and eventually all adult inpatient care will be provided at Bristol Royal Infirmary.

The team can be contacted on 0117 340 3998. After the move this will change to 0117 342 1177.

Sleep Apnoea and drivers

When referring a patient who is a professional driver, please state clearly in the letter that the patient drives for a living and that you suspect there is sleep apnoea, marking the letter as an urgent referral.

Each letter is triaged and where it is clearly indicated that the patient is a professional driver, the patient is placed onto a fast-track pathway.

This ensures an appointment is offered within two to three weeks of receipt of the letter.

Patients undertake screening oximetry over two nights and are then immediately reviewed by the medical team.

At this appointment, advice is given regarding the presence and severity

of the sleep apnoea, and formal advice is given regarding driving and the DVLA requirements.

If the patient has sleep apnoea, a trial of CPAP will commence the same day and the patient will be reviewed within four weeks, before a final decision on treatment and any further advice is given.

This pathway is consistent with the recommendations of the Sleep Apnoea Trust (SAT).

Further guidance for drivers can be found on the SAT website at: <http://www.sleep-apnoea-trust.org/driving-and-sleep-apnoea.htm>

GPs and Practice Managers: look out for...

Primary Care Communication Workshops

Following the success of events earlier in the year, dates have been confirmed for the forthcoming Primary Care Communication Workshops.

The first takes place on Thursday 13 November at South Bristol Community Hospital, and the second is on Tuesday 2 December, at a venue in central Bristol, which will be confirmed in the next edition.