

Primary care matters

Practice staff newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the August edition of Primary Care Matters.

Recent weekends have been busy for our emergency departments, with a high number of attendances and admissions.

Although we are in the height of summer, we are experiencing many of the same pressures we see during the winter months,



Deborah Lee,
Deputy
Chief
Executive

and ensuring the good flow of patients through our hospitals remains challenging.

We have a high number of patients who are fit enough to leave hospital, but who are waiting for an appropriate package of care.

The way in which care packages are provided in Bristol changed earlier this month, which has caused some delays, but we are working very closely with our partners at Bristol Community Health and colleagues at Bristol City Council, to ensure our patients can be discharged in an appropriate and timely way.

Optimising blood pressure meeting

Clinicians at the Bristol Heart Institute would like to invite their GP colleagues to a meeting on Optimising Blood Pressure Control – preventing strokes and review of latest evidence, on Wednesday 16 September 2015.

The meeting will be held at Engineers' House, Clifton, Bristol and a buffet supper will be provided.

The agenda has been designed to provide an update on topical issues around the primary prevention and management of

stroke, as well as current hypertension guidelines, novel research in the field of hypertension and tips on managing patients with challenging high blood pressure.

The full programme is as follows:

- 6.30pm: Registration and buffet supper
- 7.15pm: Welcome – Dr Angus Nightingale, consultant cardiologist
- 7.20pm: Case studies of hypertension in primary and secondary care – Dr Angus Nightingale
- 7.50pm: Hypertension update – clinical

(Dr Amy Burchell, clinical research fellow) and research (Prof. Andreas Baumbach, consultant cardiologist)

- 8.20pm: Complications of Hypertension – update on stroke management – Dr Clare Holmes, stroke consultant
- 8.50pm: Questions & answers
- 9.00pm: Meeting close

For further information about the meeting, or to reserve a place, please contact Ann Wherlock: phone 0117 342 6691 or email ann.wherlock@uhbristol.nhs.uk.

Rapid Assessment Clinic for the Older Person at South Bristol

A rapid assessment clinic is available at South Bristol Community Hospital for frail elderly patients living in the hospital's GP catchment area. It aims to support GPs in the catchment area in managing frail older patients.

The clinic provides one-stop, multi-disciplinary rapid assessment and treatment for frail elderly patients, who are steadily deteriorating without cause, or who are not urgent but need to be seen in a short time frame.

It also operates a step up/step down service from other pathways such as REACT and GPSU.

The criteria for referring patients to RACOP are:

- Following GP assessment still require geriatrician input
- Stepwise deterioration medical or functional deterioration
- Have breathlessness, confusion, self-neglect
- Most likely palliative without a confirmed diagnosis
- Have isolated cognitive problems, co-existing with other geriatric syndromes.

MAU name change

Please note that from Monday 10 August, the MAU (Medical Assessment Unit) will be known as AMU (Acute Medical Unit), to align with the national practice and recommendations from the Royal College of Physicians.

We are working with our communications and wayfinding teams to ensure the necessary changes are made in publications and on signs around the Trust.

We would be grateful if you could share this change with your colleagues as appropriate.

Hypertension clinic at the Bristol Heart Institute

The specialist hypertension clinic now running at the Bristol Heart Institute can provide the following services:

- Assessment of cardiovascular risk, and review of secondary causes of hypertension in patients with treatment-resistant hypertension, or those patients under 40 years with early onset hypertension, as recommended by current NICE guidelines.
- Support in managing patients with drug-resistant and multi-drug intolerant hypertension, including collaboration with the hospital pharmacy to access alternative drug preparations and third line agents.
- Comprehensive imaging with a resistant hypertension protocol MRI scan, which includes cardiac, renal and vascular

imaging.

- Access to urine screening for antihypertensive drug metabolites, through collaboration with Birmingham Heartlands Hospital.
- Recruitment to mechanistic studies of hypertension with a particular focus on the relationship between brain blood flow, cerebrovascular anatomical variants and sympathetic nerve activity in hypertension.
- Access to novel interventional therapies for resistant hypertension, including renal denervation.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/hypertension>. Please address referrals to Dr Angus Nightingale at the BHI.

ICE referral for DXA scans

From 3 August, in addition to current referral options, you can now use ICE to refer your patients for a DXA scan at UH Bristol's Rheumatology department.

Simply log onto ICE, select GP from the top menu bar, then select Rheum DXA from the left hand option list. Finally, click the box to start the DXA scan referral.

A link to the local commissioning policy on DXA requesting is also available on ICE (click on open book next to

'Rheumatology Adult DXA referral').

If you would like the patient reviewed in the "one-stop clinic" immediately after their scan, please mention this in the free text.

We hope you find the new system much easier to use. If you wish to contact us, or continue referring by email, our address is: ubh-tr.DXAScanClinicCoordinators@nhs.net

Secure e-mailing of radiology referrals

The radiology departments at UH Bristol now have generic nhs.net accounts for each hospital.

If your practice does not have access to UHBristol ICE, and you would prefer to e-mail scanned referrals from your own nhs.net account rather than faxing, the following nhs.net addresses are available.

BRI ubh-tr.radiologyadminBRI@nhs.net

BRHC ubh-tr.radiologyadminBRHC@nhs.net

St Michaels ubh-tr.

radiologyadminsSTM@nhs.net

BDH ubh-tr.radiologyadminBDH@nhs.net

Please use these UHBristol inboxes for radiology referrals only. The inboxes will be monitored daily Monday to Friday. If your request is urgent, please call the department to ensure the referral is picked up immediately.

If you need to chase a radiology report, please send an email to ubh-tr.radiologyreportsadmin@nhs.net

Changes to Enteral Feeding Tube Connectors

A new worldwide connection system for enteral feeding tubes called ENFit has been developed (ISO80369/3). This is to ensure feeding tubes cannot be accidentally connected to any other medical device or system. The changes to feeding tube connectors will mean a change to all giving sets, syringes, extension sets and to most feeding tubes. These changes will take place in two phases over the next 12 months.

The first phase will begin in September 2015, with the introduction of a transition giving set for people who have their feed via a feeding pump.

The second phase will be from March 2016, when tubes, syringes and other equipment with the new ENFit connector will become available.

Information is being sent to all people who tube feed in the community, and the Nutricia nurses and home management service dietetic staff are supporting people directly as required.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Nutricia Nurses:

Sue Norman (08452 501061) or Fran Hill (08452 501055) for adults.

Sarah Taylor (08452 501090) or Catherine Garland (08452 501060) for children.

Alternatively, call the Nutricia Homeward Customer Service team on 0800 0933671 for more information. You can also contact the HMS dietitians on 0117 3423367.

Paediatric physio referrals

The Paediatric Physiotherapy Department at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children is now able to accept referrals via email.

Please feel free to send paediatric physiotherapy referrals for children within the UH Bristol area to the following address rather than by post or fax: ubh-tr.paedtherapyservices@nhs.net