

GP LINK

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NEWS IN BRIEF

CHESHIRE BOWEL SCREENING CENTRE NEWSLETTER

The sixth edition of the Cheshire Bowel Screening Centre Newsletter is now available, and is included with this copy of GP Link.

For further information about the Cheshire Bowel Screening Centre, please contact Joanne Overall, Lead Specialist Screening Practitioner, on 01270 277952 or email joanne.overall@mcht.nhs.uk.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

GP Link is designed to keep you, as Primary Care colleagues, up-to-date with news and improvements within MCHFT.

If there are any topics which you would like to see covered in future editions, have any feedback on how we can improve this newsletter or would simply like more copies, please contact Rob Meadows, Communications and Marketing Officer, on 01270 273827 or email rob.meadows@mcht.nhs.uk.

COUNTRY'S MOST IMPROVED TRUST

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (MCHFT), which runs Leighton Hospital in Crewe, Victoria Infirmary in Northwich and Elmhurst Intermediate Care Centre in Winsford, has been named as the most improved Trust in the country at a national awards ceremony in London.

The Trust scooped two awards at the CHKS event on Tuesday, May 1, 2012; one for being the 'Most Improved' in the country, and the other for being rated as one of the top 40 hospitals in the UK. 134 organisations were included in the analysis for both awards, which are based on 23 indicators that recognise continuous improvement in clinical effectiveness, efficiency, health outcomes, safety, patient experience and quality of care.

The 'Most Improved' award was achieved as the Trust showed the most significant improvement across the 23 indicators in the past 12 months. The Trust's performance against a number of these indicators has been at an outstanding level for a considerable time, such as hospital infection rates, readmission rates and day case rates. Additionally, the Trust has seen significant improvement across all the other indicators, in particular mortality rates and patient and staff survey results.



To have been named as one of CHKS' top 40 hospitals is a great achievement for the Trust, but to be named as the most improved in the country as well endorses the continued and sustained improvement work that has been underway for a number of years. The awards underline that all staff are committed to constantly improving the quality and safety of care that is provided to patients.

Pictured above: Jason Harries, Managing Director of CHKS, presents the 'Most Improved' award to Tracy Bullock, MCHFT Chief Executive, and Dr Paul Dodds, MCHFT Medical Director and Deputy Chief Executive.



TRUST ACHIEVES TRAUMA UNIT STATUS

Patients in South Cheshire and Vale Royal will now have access to improved emergency care, following the announcement that MCHFT has been awarded the status of 'Major Trauma Receiving Unit'.

Changes to the way that patients with major trauma are treated are being made across the country following evidence that major trauma systems can save 20% more lives every year.

The University Hospital of North Staffordshire (UHNS) has been designated as the area's local Major Trauma Centre, and will be supported by Leighton Hospital as a Major Trauma Unit. Whilst UHNS will treat the most seriously injured patients, Leighton Hospital will play a vital role in the new Major Trauma System, providing high quality treatment to trauma patients who arrive via ambulance and whose condition is too severe for immediate and safe transfer to UHNS.



Pictured above: the entrance to Leighton Hospital's Emergency Department

As part of the new system, the Trust will be able to ensure that seriously injured patients get the specialised care that they require 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By working closely with UHNS and other trauma partners, the Trust hopes that these changes will greatly improve the quality of emergency care provided across the region.

MATERNITY UNIT QUALITY PRAISED

A recent assessment has commended the high quality of patient care provided at the Maternity unit at Leighton Hospital.

In March 2012, MCHFT was assessed against 50 Maternity Clinical Risk Management Standards, covering areas such as organisation, clinical care, high-risk conditions, post natal and newborn care. By meeting the necessary criteria set by the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST), the Trust was able to progress to Level Two accreditation, demonstrating improved care and safety for mothers and their babies.

The CNST Maternity Standards are divided into three levels. Level One was achieved by MCHFT in December 2010, and the recent assessment meant that the Trust was able to successfully progress into the next category. By achieving Level Two accreditation, the Trust demonstrated that robust risk management processes are in place,

as well as ensuring that medical and pregnancy records complied with the necessary national standards.

The Trust has also played a leading role in helping to develop the National Safer Births Toolkit which was published by the Kings Fund in March 2012.



The CNST accreditation has been deemed as a tremendous achievement for both the unit and Trust, and is a testament to the hard work and dedication to patient care that MCHFT maternity staff have. Together with the redevelopment of the unit which is currently taking place to further improve the quality of service offered, it is an exciting time for families in the area.

COLORECTAL SERVICE EXPANSION

In recent months, MCHFT has expanded the Colorectal Service at Leighton Hospital, and has recruited three new additions to the Colorectal team.

Caroline Bruce and Jonathan Hardman have joined the department as Consultant Colorectal Surgeons to work alongside Arif Khan, Consultant General Surgeon and Colorectal Lead. Nicola Thibeault has also joined as the department's second Colorectal Specialist Nurse and will work with the Lead Colorectal Specialist Nurse Heather Hughes.

The Trust's Colorectal Service has been running the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) programme since 2007, which has seen the quality of patient care improve and length of patient stay reduce. Patients have also been given the choice of Laparoscopic Colorectal surgery since 2007.

Additionally, in 2009 the Trust became a National Training Centre for Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery. The addition of two skilled laparoscopic surgeons will further strengthen the delivery of minimally invasive surgery at the Trust.

The department has also introduced minimally invasive Transanal Haemorrhoidal Dearterialisation (THD), which has shown favourable results in the treatment of Grade 2-3 haemorrhoids.

Moving forward, the department plans to shortly introduce Transanal Endoscopic Mucosal Surgery (TEMS) which is the clinical interest of Mr Hardman



and Mr Khan for the treatment of Early Rectal Tumours. This will help our patients to receive their treatment locally. Caroline Bruce has clinical interest in Pelvic Floor clinics, and is working towards establishing a multi-disciplinary approach to Pelvic Floor disease in order to provide treatment to our patients locally.

For further information on Colorectal services available at MCHFT, please contact Arif Khan on 01270 612046 or email arif.khan@mcht.nhs.uk.

Pictured above: New additions Jonathan Hardman and Caroline Bruce, Consultant Colorectal Surgeons.

Pictured below: the Colorectal Multi-disciplinary Team.



FERTILITY SERVICE - MEET THE TEAM

There has been a recent change to the Fertility Services at MCHFT.

Miss Lynda Coughlin is now the Lead Consultant for the service, and is delighted to be part of the team as Fertility was her first special interest. She was a Research Fellow in the field of Infertility and has been a member of the British Fertility Society for the past 13 years.

New additions to the service will include the introduction of Hystero-Contrast Sonography (HyCoSy) for outpatient tubal patency testing.

Lynda joins the existing team of Dr Adrian Heald, Consultant Physician with a special interest in Pituitary Endocrinology and PCOS, and the



Fertility Specialist Nurses, Wendy Mellor and Helen Jesson.

Pictured above: The Fertility Service Team - Lynda Coughlin and Dr Adrian Heald with Specialist Nurses Wendy Mellor and Helen Jesson.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ACCREDITATION

In March 2012, Cheshire Occupational Health Services, based at Leighton Hospital, was awarded full SEQOHS (Safe Effective Quality Occupational Health Service) accreditation, subject to formal approval. SEQOHS is a scheme run by the Royal College of Physicians on behalf of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, and provides a set of comprehensive standards designed to help raise the level and quality of care provided by Occupational Health services.

The accreditation standards were launched in December 2010, and covers a range of standards including staff, information governance, facilities and equipment.

Securing accreditation at this early stage is an important achievement for both the Service and the Trust, as it places MCHFT amongst an

elite group of NHS organisations who have succeeded in demonstrating full compliance in this field for the benefit of its workforce and therefore its patients and service users. The award provided independent validation of the high standards of quality that the Service delivers in continuing to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the workforce at MCHFT.



For further information about the Cheshire Occupational Health Service, please contact Bobby Sharma, Service Manager, by emailing bobby.sharma@mcht.nhs.uk.