

GP LINK

AUGUST 2012

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NEWS IN BRIEF

UROLOGY REFERRALS

The Trust would like to make local GPs aware that Satish Maddineni, Consultant Urological Surgeon, has left MCHFT to take up a position at another Trust. Therefore, please could upcoming referrals for Mr Maddineni be directed to Mr Mukherjee, Mr Irwin or Mr Stubington. Mr Maddineni's replacement is expected to join MCHFT in October 2012.

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@mchf.nhs.uk.

NEW PRIMARY ASSESSMENT AREA

In early July, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (MCHFT) introduced a new Primary Assessment Area (PAA) in the Emergency Department at Leighton Hospital to help improve the flow and assessment of patients attending the Department.

The PAA, which is under the medical management of the Trust's Acute Physicians, is located in the former Emergency Assessment Unit (EAU) just off the Accident and Emergency area.

The existing EAU, which is located on Ward 3, has been renamed the 'Acute Medical Unit' to reflect national guidance in naming such areas.

The PAA is open Monday to Friday, 10am until 10pm, and will primarily be responsible for taking GP-referred patients. Patients who are referred from the Emergency Department awaiting medical assessment will go directly to the Acute Medical Unit or appropriate specialty ward. However, at times of high pressure and capacity, these patients may

also go to the PAA.

The unit will be fully staffed with medical and nursing teams, enabling diagnostics and work-ups to commence at the earliest opportunity.

In addition to these changes, the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) has identified a dedicated discharge ambulance, which is in operation between 10am and 6pm. This will ensure that patients requiring discharge by ambulance will be able to go home earlier, maximising bed capacity in the hospital.

The Trust would like to thank the local health community for its continued support, and to reassure them that initiatives such as these are being made to improve the experience of its patients.



THEATRE AND CRITICAL CARE UPDATE

In March this year, the Trust was successful in its bid to receive Department of Health funding of £21.6million towards the rebuilding of the Theatres and Critical Care units at Leighton Hospital. Since then, staff from across the organisation have been working hard to progress the project, with the aim of starting the building work later this year and treating the first patients in the new unit by early 2014.

As the project moves forward, the Trust aims to continually engage with the local health community and keep its stakeholders up to date with the progress of one of MCHFT's biggest projects in recent years.

Last month, Martin Sidaway joined the Trust as the Senior Project Manager for the project. Although new to the NHS, Martin has a range of experience in project and change management in areas such as housing and local government. Martin will

be working closely with Peter Kemp, the Trust's Clinical Project Manager, who has extensive experience of managing and developing theatre services in the NHS.

As well as working closely with the Trust's Estates and Facilities Division, Martin and Peter will be working alongside Dr Susan Gilby, Clinical Lead for the project, and a range of other clinicians and support staff, to ensure that the new building, equipment and services delivered will meet the current and future needs of patients, staff and stakeholders.

The project has been allocated a number of internal and external workstreams focusing on different areas, including working closely with external contractor Interserve, who are currently finalising the design of the new building, details of which are expected to be available in the coming months and will be shared accordingly.

PAEDIATRIC REFERRALS

The Trust is changing the way that it accepts acute paediatric referrals. From Tuesday, August 28, all referrals will be managed by a paediatric doctor or nurse holding the admissions bleep pager, which can be contacted through the Trust's switchboard (01270 255141).

Referrals will not be accepted directly by the Children's Assessment Unit - anybody attempting to do so will be kindly asked to contact the admissions bleep holder instead. The Trust will continue to have senior staff on call at all times who are available for advice.

ROAD CLOSURE AT LEIGHTON HOSPITAL

On Thursday, August 30, and Friday, August 31, the Flowers Lane Roundabout near to the entrance to Leighton Hospital will be closed by Cheshire East Council for resurfacing works.

As a result, access to the Main and A&E entrances on Smithy Lane will be via the Middlewich Road

(A530) end only. Access to the Treatment Centre will be unaffected, and access for all entrances for Emergency Vehicles will be maintained at all times.

Diversions will be in place to guide visitors to the alternative routes.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE - AUDIOLOGY

Overview

We are a well-established Audiology service based at Leighton Hospital. We have four Senior Audiologists, three Audiologists, one Associate Audiology Practitioner and three Assistant Audiology Practitioners, all of which are fully trained with a wealth of experience. We are also a teaching site for students from The University of Manchester.

We offer open clinics to all of our patients, meaning that we are on hand every day to deal with any queries. These are popular clinics and a service that our patients appreciate. We are a professional and friendly department with a wide client base.

Services

We can provide the following services to our patients at Leighton Hospital:

- Diagnostic assessment of hearing;
- Assessment for, and prescription fitting of, digital hearing aids including Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA);
- Tinnitus management clinics;
- Rehabilitation for hearing loss and tinnitus.

We also provide hearing aid support, maintenance and repair clinics at Leighton, Northwich (Victoria Infirmary), Winsford, Alsager, Crewe (Eagle Bridge) and Holmes Chapel health centres.

Repair Clinics

We are currently experiencing an increased number of patients attending our open repair services with hearing aids issued by other providers. Whilst we can provide aftercare such as

retubing, replacement aids, batteries and general servicing, due to the costs involved the Trust can only provide this service to patients whose hearing aids were fitted by MCHFT.

Reassessment Referrals

We are making changes to our reassessment policy for Audiology services. In line with guidelines set out by AQP (Any Qualified Provider), a reassessment will only be offered if the patient has been assessed within the last three years. Anyone over this time will require a new referral from their GP. For further information regarding AQP guidelines, please visit www.supply2health.nhs.uk/AQPResourceCentre.

Wax

To ensure an efficient and effective service for all patients, we would like to ask GPs to remind patients that wax can prevent us from carrying out all the necessary procedures during an appointment. Therefore, we would encourage ears to be free from wax prior to assessment.

Times

The Audiology department is open Monday to Friday. Hearing aid clinics are held on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9am until 12noon. They also take place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm until 4pm.

Contact Us

For further information about the Audiology services available at MCHFT, please contact the Audiology Reception on 01270 612197 or fax 01270 273409.

HAEMATOLOGY FAX NUMBER

The Haematology department at MCHFT has recently implemented a new fax number. GPs and

other local healthcare colleagues can now fax the department on 01270 612116.

FETAL MEDICINE REPORTS

The Fetal Medicine Unit at Leighton Hospital has gone through some changes recently - Chorionic Villus sampling and Amniocentesis are offered as diagnostic testing, detailed Fetal Echocardiography is now available, and a dedicated twins clinic has been set up.

Parents attending the unit often have difficult or complicated problems that require multidisciplinary care and good communication. To that end, the unit has worked with Healthnet Connections Ltd to produce formal reports using the unit's database, whilst, internally, formal pathways are being developed for specific conditions.

From mid September, fetal medicine ultrasound reports will be sent out to practices on the same day as the patient's scan, and by year-end the unit aims to send these electronically directly into practice IT systems.

In early September a mailshot will be sent out to all GP practices detailing the format of these new reports, and copies of the new pathways will be sent during October.

For further information, please contact Simon Cunningham, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, on 01270 273835.

DEDICATED GP SECTION ON WEBSITE

In April 2012, the Trust relaunched its website to become more user friendly for patients and stakeholders.

As part of the redesign, a section dedicated to GPs and members of the local health community was included. This section is currently home to information such as wards and departments, patient information leaflets and the MCHFT Consultant Directory.

However, so that this part of the site is as useful and informative as possible, we are asking for your opinion on how we can develop it further. Are there particular elements that you would like to see added to the GP section or the site in general? Would Consultant Profiles be useful to you? Or would you benefit from information on specific conditions or symptoms? All ideas and feedback will be welcomed - just send them via email to communications@mcht.nhs.uk.

GOLF DAY FOR NEONATAL APPEAL

The Mid Cheshire Hospitals Charity will be holding its annual Charity Golf Day at Vale Royal Abbey near Northwich on Friday, September 28. The event aims to raise funds for refurbishment of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Leighton Hospital, as part of the One in Eleven appeal.

The day is for teams of four and will start at approximately 11am with refreshments before an 18-hole round of golf. As well as other

competitions during the day, there will also be a three-course dinner and charity auction in the magnificent Great Hall in the evening.

Prices are £250 per team of four (whole day), or £30 per head if just attending for the evening. To book your place, please contact Laura Bailey, Fundraising Manager, on 01270 273248 or email laura.bailey@mcht.nhs.uk.



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