

GP LINK

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TRUST NAMED AMONGST THE BEST

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (MCHFT) has been named as one of best in the country for the second year in a row.

The Trust, which manages Leighton Hospital in Crewe, Victoria Infirmary in Northwich and Elmhurst Intermediate Care Centre in Winsford, was announced as one of the CHKS 40Top Hospitals for 2013 at a ceremony on April 30.

The 40Top award is based on the evaluation of 22 key performance indicators for hospitals and covers important performance areas such as safety, clinical effectiveness, health outcomes, efficiency, patient

experience and quality of care.

The Trust was named as the 'Most Improved' in the awards last year, and this latest accolade confirms the continued raising of standards in all aspects of patient care, safety and experience at MCHFT.



Pictured: Jason Harries (Managing Director, CHKS) presents the award to Tracy Bullock (Chief Executive, MCHFT) and Julie Smith (Director of Nursing and Quality, MCHFT).

SHADOW HEALTH SECRETARY VISIT

On Thursday, May 30, Andy Burnham MP, Shadow Health Secretary, visited the Emergency Department at Leighton Hospital.

The purpose of the visit was to allow Mr Burnham to have a look around the department and to speak with staff about their roles within it, before travelling to Westminster to participate in an A&E Summit.

Emergency Departments across the country have been under significant pressures for a number of months, and Leighton Hospital is no exception. However, Mr Burnham was impressed by the systems that were in place at the hospital and noted that it was one of only a few

units in the country that had achieved the desired standard of 95% of A&E attendees waiting a maximum of four hours from arrival to admission, treatment or discharge.

During the visit, Mr Burnham said: "I have been greatly impressed by the structure of A&E work here, including its efforts to direct people to the right place and its collaboration with primary care."

Attendances at Accident and Emergency at Leighton Hospital and the Minor Injuries Unit at the Victoria Infirmary in Northwich have increased significantly over the past few years, rising from 79,579 in 2011/12 to 83,320 in 2012/13.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW THEATRES AND INTENSIVE CARE

A ceremony was recently held at Leighton Hospital to mark the fact that the new multi-million pound building that will contain the Trust's new Theatres and Intensive Care Unit is now officially watertight. The new facility is expected to treat its first patients in the first half of 2014, and photos of the building progress are currently available online at www.mcht.nhs.uk/itic.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

GP Link is designed to keep you 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.

BREASTFEEDING ACCREDITATIONS

Wards and departments at Leighton Hospital are supporting women in their right to breastfeed, after being awarded the Cherubs Charter.

The Charter is awarded to areas that are breastfeeding-friendly and put in extra effort to make the mother and child feel welcome. Six departments at the hospital were recently assessed for the Charter, with all of them meeting the necessary criteria.

The Antenatal and Postnatal areas of the hospital received the award, as did the Labour Ward, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Paediatric Unit and the Krishnan Chandran Children's Centre.

In order to receive the Charter, each area had to meet the following standards:

- All breastfeeding mothers are made to feel welcome;
- Breastfeeding is always accepted and encouraged;
- The venue is always clean and warm, with comfortable seating areas;
- A discreet or comfortable area will be made

available, whenever possible, for mothers to breastfeed; and,

- All employees are supportive about breastfeeding.

In addition to the Cherubs Charter, the Trust has also been the proud recipient of Unicef's Baby Friendly accreditation. Women who deliver in a Baby Friendly accredited hospital are 10% more likely to initiate breastfeeding, and work is ongoing to progress further within this initiative for the benefit of patients.

Pictured: the Cherubs Charter is presented to members of staff from MCHFT's Maternity Unit.



NORTHWICH SEXUAL HEALTH CLINICS

Anyone with concerns about sexual health issues can now be seen at new clinics taking place at Victoria Infirmary in Northwich (VIN). These are satellite clinics of the main Centre for Sexual Health that is based at Leighton Hospital.

The VIN clinics run every Monday and Thursday from 2.30pm until 5.30pm, and require a booked appointment. Patients can refer themselves to the clinic, or can be referred by a health care professional. All referrals will be triaged, prioritised and offered an appointment.

The services provided include:

- Sexual health screening;
- Cervical smear screening;
- Counselling and sexual health advice;

- HIV testing and results within 24 hours;
- Hepatitis B and C screening;
- Contraception and advice;
- Pregnancy testing;
- Free prescriptions;
- Support for victims of sexual assault;
- Support for sex workers.

Information about the Sexual Health Department, as well as links to useful websites, can be found on the MCHFT website - www.mcht.nhs.uk/sexualhealth. Please could you advise patients that, in order to book an appointment at the VIN clinic or to find out further information about the Sexual Health services available across the Trust, they should telephone 01270 612255.

AUDIOLOGY UPDATE

New Management - on April 29, 2013, Kath Woolley joined the Trust as Head of Adult Audiology. Kath has a wealth of experience having previously managed Audiology services in Bury and Blackpool, and is delighted to join the experienced and enthusiastic MCHFT team.

Hearing Aid Tools - after receiving feedback from patients, the department has recently introduced a range of cleaning kits and maintenance tools for hearing aids. These include puffers to clear the common problem of moisture in the tubing, as well as complete care kits with hygienic wipes and brushes. The department is now also able to

provide a professional range of swim plugs and noise plugs at competitive prices.

Hearing Aid Accessories - the department now offers the latest connect-line technology and accessories available from Oticon. This includes a Bluetooth device that wirelessly connects hearing aids to Bluetooth compatible devices such as telephones, MP3 players and televisions.

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

BOWEL SCREENING IMPROVEMENTS

MCHFT, which currently runs the Bowel Screening Centre in Cheshire, has recently received approval to expand within the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme to include an extended age range.

Since February 2013, the Trust has been able to offer screening to those in the local population who are aged 60-75 years, compared to the previous age range of 60-69.

Additionally, the Trust is currently in the process of recruiting additional Gastroenterologist Consultants, increasing the number from three to five, as well as recruiting extra specialist doctors and nurses to assist the service as a whole. The investment in these services will allow the Trust to treat more patients more quickly, both on the wards and in Outpatient clinics.

RENAL DIALYSIS UNIT OFFICIALLY OPENS

The Crewe Renal Dialysis Unit was officially opened in May at Leighton Hospital. The new unit has been built by renal services provider Fresenius Medical Care, in partnership with MCHFT and the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust (UHNS).

The unit is being run by Fresenius and UHNS, and has been built to replace the former dialysis unit at Leighton Hospital, which was becoming out of date and too small for the number of patients requiring treatment. The new unit now contains state of the art equipment to provide the highest quality treatment to patients. There are 18 stations

within the unit, and the treatment rooms are much more spacious and comfortable than the previous dialysis centre. Patient entertainment has also been upgraded, offering high-tech systems including TV, radio and internet access.

The Crewe unit will be open six days a week and will provide life-saving treatment for up to 64 patients.



DIRECT ACCESS EXERCISE TOLERANCE

MCHFT is now fully compliant with NICE Clinical Guideline 95 which relates to Chest Pain of recent onset. This is as a result of the removal of the direct access pathway for Exercise ECG Tolerance testing.

Guidance states that an Exercise ECG should not be used to diagnose or exclude stable angina for people without known coronary artery disease (CAD).

The preferred pathway for patients presenting with stable chest pain should be a referral by fax to the Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic on the agreed proforma to the Cardio-Respiratory Department (Fax 01270 612203). Alternatively, the patient can be referred for a cardiology consultation if preferred.

With the change in the pathway it is expected that the department will be able to deliver a more effective and efficient service to patients and GPs.

ENDOMETRIAL CELLS REPORTING

The Trust is currently receiving a number of enquiries from GPs about how best to manage cases where endometrial cells are reported on a cervical smear. As a result, the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Team would like to share the following guidance.

If a cervical sample shows 'atypical cells of endometrial origin', about one third of women have uterine lesions such as endometrial polyps, hyperplasia or carcinoma - it is recommended that an urgent (within 2 weeks) referral for Gynaecology Outpatients takes place for an ultrasound scan and review.

If 'normal endometrial cells' are reported, the significance of these in women over the age of 40 varies according to various factors, including the phase of the menstrual cycle, the use of some hormones and the patient's clinical history. It is therefore extremely important that all relevant

clinical information is correctly recorded on the cytology request form.

No action is required in the following cases, provided there are no clinical symptoms suggesting endometrial disease (e.g. intermenstrual or post-coital bleeding):

- the presence of normal endometrial cells during the first 14 days of the menstrual cycle;
- the presence of endometrial cells in a woman who is receiving oral contraceptives, hormone replacement therapy or tamoxifen; and,
- the presence of endometrial cells in a woman who is fitted with an IUCD.

Detailed advice regarding cervical cytology results and actions required can be found at www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/publications/nhscsp20.pdf.

CHARITY GOLF DAY - NEW DATE

A new date has been arranged for the Mid Cheshire Hospitals Charity golf day at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club. The event will now take place on Sunday, September 8, 2013, to raise funds for projects at Leighton Hospital, Victoria Infirmary and Elmhurst Intermediate Care Centre in Winsford.

Entry is £50 per person, or £200 per team of four.

For further information, please contact Laura Bailey on 01270 273248 or email charity@mcht.nhs.uk. We would very much welcome our primary care colleagues at this event.