

This regular briefing aims to keep local GPs up to date with the trust's new services and developments.

If you'd like any further information about any of the items in this issue contact Caroline Parnell on 01642 835592, email caroline.parnell@stees.nhs.uk or go to our website www.southtees.nhs.uk

South Tees Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

A&E award

The trust has been shortlisted for the excellence in accident and emergency care award as part of the CHKS annual Top Hospitals programme awards 2015.

The trust's A&E departments at The James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) in Middlesbrough and the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton treat more than 127,000 patients a year. JCUH is also a designated regional major trauma centre and over the last three year the number of people it has treated has increased by over 50%.

Six trusts were shortlisted for the award following an analysis of 28 measures, including patient survey results and survival rates. The award winner will be decided following a judge's visit to the top three sites.

Oncology / haematology 24 hour phone line

Patients receiving chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy often experience side effects of treatment. Some of these can be minor, others, such as neutropenic sepsis, can be very dangerous and even potentially fatal.

We provide 24 hours a day, seven days a week telephone advice line for patients receiving chemotherapy and for six weeks post treatment. Each patient is provided with an alert card detailing their 24 hour contact numbers.

The chemotherapy trained nurse answering the phone call has an assessment process to follow and action taken is based upon the grading of the presenting symptoms/toxicity following the telephone interview, data collection and assessment.

Only if the query is unlikely to relate to chemotherapy or is minor will the patient be advised to contact their GP. If GPs are asked to see a patient with a cancer diagnosis on treatment it is useful to check whether the patient has contacted the hospital for advice. Any other cancer related queries can be discussed with the consultant oncologist "on call" available through the trust's switch board on 01642 850850.

REMINDER Orthotic referral changes

We have changed the way you make orthotic referrals to speed up the process and reduce patients' waiting times. All orthotic referrals should now be sent via email using the attached form to orthotics.clinics@nhs.net

Also insoles and shoe orthotics will no longer be supplied by the service, but will be provided by podiatry. All referrals for insoles and in shoe orthotics should be sent to podiatry either via email at podiatry.clinic@nhs.net or posted to podiatry, 2nd floor, One Life, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 3QY.



See 'attachments'
in this PDF for form



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NORTH YORKSHIRE NEWS

SSPAU hours increase

Earlier this year we took the reluctant decision to temporarily reduce the opening hours of the short stay paediatric assessment unit (SSPAU) at the Friarage due to severe staffing problems.

Thanks to the appointment of a new consultant and existing staff working extra hours, from May 23 the unit opening hours will increase from 10am – 4pm to 10am – 7pm every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday.

We are still hoping to recruit a further consultant but even with a successful appointment its unlikely we will be able to return to 12 hour opening at the SSPAU before September 2015.

Friarage maternity centre

The centre has welcomed its 100th baby into the world since becoming a midwifery led unit in October 2014.

Run by a team of experienced and skilled midwives the centre provides friendly individualised care to women with straightforward pregnancies. Partners are welcome to stay in the en-suite rooms during and after the birth.

Women with high risk pregnancies can still receive all their outpatient antenatal care at the Friarage with a consultant obstetrician, but deliver in a consultant-led obstetric unit where facilities for complication are more immediately available.

The midwifery led centre was recently praised by UNICEF's UK baby friendly initiative, for the promotion of breastfeeding. By meeting all of the criteria relating to stage 3 accreditation the centre now has the same level of accolade as the maternity unit at The James Cook University Hospital.

Your views wanted on Friarage changes

Dr Jennifer Walsh, GPST1 to Dr Venkataraman, is seeking the views of GPs, GP trainees and practice nurses on the impact of changes made to the children's services at The Friarage in October 2014

A short anonymous and confidential survey (click below) will take less than five minutes to complete and your feed back could help to shape the service in the future.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZN9BW5P>

Ophthalmology outpatients at Whitby

Eye outpatient clinics at Whitby Hospital began again in April after the trust was commissioned to provide an eye clinic by Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG.

In July 2014, due to staffing pressures, the previous providers - York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - stopped the clinics at the hospital, meaning patients had to travel to Scarborough or elsewhere for care. The trust is now providing a full-day clinic every alternate week, which is run by four of our clinicians on a rotational basis.



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MIDDLESBROUGH & REDCAR & CLEVELAND NEWS

Catalyst technology first

The radiotherapy department at The James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) is the first in the UK to use catalyst technology to improve the accuracy of radiotherapy for breast cancer patients.

South Tees Hospital Charity has funded the innovative system that generates a 3D surface map that is used to position and monitor the movement of patients before and during radiotherapy.

Around 700 new patients a year are seen in the department, which is aiming to use the new technology to introduce the deep inspiration breath hold technique in the near future. This cutting edge technique aims to avoid unwanted effects of treatment to heart and lung tissue.

Macmillan quality awards

The trust is the first in the country to receive five Macmillan quality awards after the Endeavour unit at JCUH became the latest service to receive the charity's quality environment mark.

The centre, which was built in 2012 as part of the trust's £35m cancer services redevelopment, has won several awards for its design and was one of the first units in the world to treat patients with linear accelerators.

The Macmillan award demonstrates to patients, visitors and staff that the unit is:

- welcoming and accessible to all
- respectful of people's privacy and dignity
- supportive to the user's comfort and well-being
- giving choice and control to people using the service
- listening to the voice of the user

The charity has previously presented awards at the hospital to ward 14, the chemotherapy day unit and the Macmillan information and support centre at The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, as well as the Macmillan information centre at the Friarage Hospital.

UK's first robotic diaphragm procedure

The UK's first robotic diaphragm plication has been performed by cardiothoracic surgeon Joel Dunning at JCUH using the trust's new da Vinci robot.

JCUH is only the second hospital in the country to offer robotic thoracic surgery and was the first to use it to carry out a diaphragm plication – an operation to repair a paralysed diaphragm.

Normally, patients would need big thoracotomy, resulting in a six week recovery, but with this endoscopic technique patients can be back home within two to four days.



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Parkinson's advance symptom unit

The Parkinson's team at JCUH has been selected by the Health Foundation, to be part of its new £1.5 million innovation programme.

The programme, which is supporting 17 projects in the UK, will see a Parkinson's advance symptom unit (PASU) set up in a local community day hospital to provide rapid access, specialist care for people struggling with their Parkinson's symptoms.

Rather than seeing patients for 15 to 30 minutes, the PASU will offer half-day or all-day appointments, enabling a more complete assessment of complex issues, from a wide variety of team members. The clinic will be open to referrals from patients and carers themselves, as well as primary care providers and community-based teams.

The team will be led by Dr Neil Archibald, consultant neurologist from JCUH, and be supported by Parkinson's UK and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. As the unit is set up further information will be shared about how patients can be referred.

Stroke rehab at home

The trust has set up an early supported discharge service so stroke patients can now receive rehabilitation at home rather than in hospital.

Around 40% of patients admitted to hospital with a stroke could benefit from the service that brings together occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and dietetics. Tailored to suit patient's needs, the service provides up to six weeks of in-home therapy to the same intensity they would have received in hospital.

The service is supported by re-ablement teams from the Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland local authorities, psychology, community nursing services and the Stroke Association.

Stroke rehabilitation is a priority for South Tees CCG and as part of the IMProVE programme the stroke and rehabilitation teams have been centralised at Redcar Primary Care Hospital from 1 April 2015.

Nutrition and dietetics update

Our nutrition and dietetic service has provided training to 288 staff from 38 nursing/care homes to improve the accuracy and consistency of MUST screening, as well as promoting a food-first approach to tackling malnutrition.

The team recently supported nutrition champions in community hospitals wards and nursing/care homes to mark Nutrition and Hydration Week. Together they organised tea parties across the area as well as information stands, a bake off and hydration challenge.

NEW CONSULTANTS

Dr Ahmed Monier has joined our gastroenterology service as a long term locum.



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