

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](mailto:caroline.parnell@stees.nhs.uk) or go to our website [www.southtees.nhs.uk](http://www.southtees.nhs.uk)

South Tees Hospitals   
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The Care Quality Commission's annual survey of inpatients was published recently and, again, the organisation was rated highly for patients' overall views and experiences during their time with us - quite a number of areas scored in the top 20% of performing trusts.

## SPECIALIST SERVICES

### Neurosurgical mortality

The national neurosurgical audit programme highlights that the neurosurgical unit at The James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) has one of the lowest 30-day mortality rates in the country at 1.86%.

### Trinity holistic centre

The centre at JCUH has been shortlisted for a Patient Safety cancer care award for the work it has done in transforming support for patients with cancer and other long-term conditions over the last year. More information about the centre, which is funded entirely by charitable donations, is available on the trust's website.

## NORTH YORKSHIRE NEWS

### Your views wanted on Friarage changes

There is still time left to give your views on recent changes to children's services at The Friarage.

Dr Jennifer Walsh, GPST1 to Dr Venkataraman, is seeking the views of GPs, GP trainees and practice nurses on the impact of changes made 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>



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## Friarage maternity centre

Cathy Warwick, the chief executive of the Royal College of Midwives, officially opened the Friarage maternity centre last month, as part of an open day to showcase the excellent work at the centre. Since opening in October 2014, the centre has seen 150 births and more details about the services are in a video on the trust's website.

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## New upper GI surgical clinic

We have set up a new weekly upper GI surgical clinic at the Friarage Hospital for choose and book patients. Operating each Tuesday afternoon, the clinic has slots available for two-week waits.

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## MIDDLESBROUGH, REDCAR & CLEVELAND NEWS

### A&E at JCUH

We have appointed four new emergency medicine consultants who will be in post at JCUH in September 2015. This will mean that we will have consultant cover for night shifts every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in addition to the current model of working.

We know that these times are the most demanding for the department and we will use these senior decision makers to support junior staff and the management of the department at times of extreme pressure.

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## Surgical ambulatory care pilot

We have started a three month pilot surgical ambulatory care clinic at Normanby GP practice. The clinic runs three days a week and if successful could be rolled out to other GP practices in the area.

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## Improvements to rapid response service

The nurse-led rapid response service was launched three years ago to assess patients in their own homes. Now community matrons with more advanced clinical skills and expertise in patients with long-term conditions have joined the team.

Operating 8am – 11pm seven days a week, the team currently gets around 16 referrals a month. Referrals come from GPs or NHS 111 and must be responded to within two hours. Rapid response patients are then monitored for 72 hours before either being discharged or placed under the care of their local community matron.



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## Changes to specialist musculoskeletal services administration

The administration team is now solely based at Onelife, with the closure in May of the administration office at Guisborough. Please send all referrals and enquiries to:

Administration Office, Onelife, 3rd Floor, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough. TS1 3QY

Tel No: 01642 737737

Choose and Book line number: 01642 737853

Fax number: 01642 737857

Information details are being changed on the Choose and Book directory of service to reflect the new contact details, but please continue to refer to the specialist musculoskeletal service in the usual way and all clinical services and venues remain the same. Any queries please contact Heidi Clark on 01642 737737

## Robotic surgery

Robotic surgery is now well established at JCUH for radical prostatectomy, cystectomy and colorectal surgery. We are currently planning to introduce robotic assisted partial nephrectomy later in the year.

## Urology on-call system

Our urology service now offers a new on-call system with consultants offering an ambulatory clinic twice a week for one to two hours. This is mainly to see patients sent home from A&E but the service also accepts referrals from GPs through the on call registrar if appropriate.

## Urology two-week rule

GP colleagues are asked to check eGFR at the time of making a urology referral under the two-week rule. This will help in requesting contrast CT scans as radiology will not accept requests without this information.

## STAFF NEWS

Dr Sath Nag, clinical director for diabetes, has been appointed as deputy medical director and will join the medical director's team in June 2015.

Mr Tarin Mohammed will join the urology team as locum consultant from mid July.



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