



# GP Update

LATEST NEWS FROM THE TRUST

SPRING 2014 Number 28



**Children and young people with epilepsy can now have their follow-up appointments via Skype, saving the need to come to hospital.**

In this scheme they can now choose to have alternate clinic appointments via telemedicine directly with their paediatrician Dr Sal Uka. The Skype consultations last 20 minutes – the same as a hospital appointment.

Dr Uka is the clinical lead and driving force behind the new Skype-medicine.

He said: "This is a really exciting step in using technology to improve the services we offer here at the hospital to suit the changing needs of our patients. This means that our patients and their families can have their follow-up consultations with me via a video call at their computer, laptop or tablet instead of journeying to and from a hospital appointment.



This is proving to be popular with our patients and their families who have tried it."

Leila Mehrdadi, 17, is one of such patients to use Skype. Her mother Belinda, who sat through

it with her, said: "The sessions are informal and chatty and we cover all areas of Leila's condition with Dr Uka without the drive to hospital. We love the technology as we get

the healthcare support and advice we need."

If a prescription needs amending as a result of the consultation, Dr Uka writes to the patient's GP to issue one for collection.

We are currently running an extra clinic with about five to six patients per month and hope to incorporate this into our regular weekly clinic as a normal way of consulting with our patients.

## Health visitors tour nurseries

Health visitors in Todmorden have started going into nursery schools to ensure three-year-olds get their health checkups.

Previously take-up at clinics and drop-in sessions had been poor so now parents are informed in advance by letter of their visit to give their permission and are then contacted afterwards if there are any issues.

The feedback from the first trial at Cornholme Junior and Infant School, Calderdale, has been so good it will now be made



permanent and extended to other nurseries.

Health Visitor Karen Thompson, said: "By going into nurseries we can assess so many children in one session therefore

more children receive this assessment. So far no parent has declined so that means all children are getting their checks."

Headteacher at Cornholme, Mr Adam Sapey, said: "What is good is that we have a named person to contact directly if we have any concerns."

The team is made up of health visitor Karen Thompson, child development support Amanda Wrench, both pictured, and (not pictured) health visitors Janet Hallett and Janet Smethurst.

## Ex-Town boss is speaker



Former Huddersfield Town manager Peter Jackson was the speaker at the 'Speak for Thy'sen' support group re-launched for patients who have had or are currently receiving treatment for head and neck cancers.

Mr Jackson, pictured with wife Alison (second left) and staff, was diagnosed in 2008 and successfully treated at HRI and in Leeds.

For information on the group call Ruth Henderson on 01422 222709.

INSIDE

NEWS ROUND-UP 2 3,600 HAPPY BIRTHDAYS 2  
FOCUS ON... CLOT BUSTER STROKE CARE 3  
FASTER, BETTER A&E CARE 3 WAITING TIMES 4

## News Round-up

### Review of healthcare underway

A major review looking at how healthcare will be provided in the future in Kirklees and Calderdale is now well underway.



Presentations have been delivered to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels at both local authorities and also to their Health and Well-being Boards by clinicians and managers.

As the service model is developed we are particularly interested in the views of colleagues in primary care. The Trust, Locals and SWYPFT are talking to GPs through the two local medical committees (LMCs) and the developing Federations to ensure any service model proposed is deliverable in primary care too.

A series of engagement events is underway with key stakeholders and details of these and the Strategic Outline Case and the report from the National Clinical Advice Team can be found at [www.rightcaretimeplace.co.uk](http://www.rightcaretimeplace.co.uk)

There are five scenarios on the table and the Trust has expressed its preference for the area to retain two specialist hospitals with unplanned care at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and planned care at Calderdale Royal Hospital. This would also include more care in the community at Todmorden Health Centre and Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.

## 3,600 happy birthdays



More than 3,600 babies have now been born at the Birth Centre at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Three were born on the centre's 6th birthday in March and midwives and their families

shared a birthday cake. One of them, little Harry Taylor, arrived at 8lbs 11oz in the birthing pool. Mum Amy said: "Being in the pool is being like wrapped in silk and the

### Staff, mums and babies celebrate the birthday

minute you walk in here you don't feel like you're in a hospital. The midwives were phenomenal."

## Telehealth – it's good to talk

Our Trust has funded a round-the-clock telemedicine service to provide non-hospital care for elderly people in care homes.

This means the residents can get medical help from specialist nurses or hospital consultants via a secure video link if they need it – without having to leave the comfort of their home which is especially important in winter.

The homes are linked to a tele-health hub based at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust which is run by the trust's specialist nurses,



**Care home resident Dorothy Wood with the home's manager Beverley Hanson**

24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Care homes with the highest number of hospital admissions were chosen to pilot telemedicine for 12 months in Kirklees and Calderdale.

Dorothy Wood, aged 89, of Cowlersley Court in Huddersfield, is one of the residents to benefit

from the new service. Miss Beverley Hanson, manager of Cowlersley Court, said: "I love it. It helps us to make sure that our residents don't go into hospital unless it is absolutely necessary."

Where telemedicine has already started, hospital admissions have dropped by 45 percent.

### CQC compliant right across the Trust

The Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust is now fully compliant with all Care Quality Commission (CQC) standards.

A final CQC tick has just been awarded in the last of the main key areas - safety and suitability of premises. The other areas were already assessed as compliant after an unannounced spot-check last summer. They are:

- Treating people with respect and involving them in their care
- Providing care, treatment and support that meets people's needs
- Caring for people safely and protecting them from harm
- Staffing
- Management

The inspectors returned to the Trust in February to check on required improvements in areas such as fire safety awareness and some minor maintenance issues. The CQC says there have been improvements and we are now compliant.

Trust Chairman Andrew Haigh, said: "To be fully CQC compliant is a tribute to all the hard work and extra work put in right across our Trust by all members of our teams, both clinical and estates. We are very proud to hold this status and our challenge now will be to hold onto it and maintain it into the future under the CQC's revised inspection processes being introduced this year."

## Thanks for saving my life, says Ian

A man who thought a serious heart attack was indigestion has been back to Calderdale Royal Hospital to thank the hospital staff on the percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) team who saved his life.

Ian Foster, 58, from Salendine Nook, needed six stents in his heart's arteries

which were inserted via a blood vessel in his wrist. His son, John, has raised £500 after sponsored runs to split between the PCI team and the cardiac rehab team.

Cardiology consultant, Dr Jeremy Butts, said: "I am absolutely delighted that Mr Foster is doing so well. He presented

with very complex disease involving the arteries to his heart.

"One of the blood vessels was completely blocked whilst two others had tight narrowings. The blocked blood vessel was reopened and the other two blood vessels were also successfully treated."



**Ian with his son John and PCI and Rehab staff**

# FOCUS ON... Clot buster stroke care

A well-known 'clot busting' drug which can reduce the disability effects of stroke is now available for patients in Calderdale and Huddersfield at all times of the day and night.

The new treatment, which has to be completed via a drip within 3 hours for patients aged over 80 and within 4.5 hours for the under 80s is now available 24-hours a day at Calderdale Royal Hospital from a specialist stroke team.

Consultant Stroke Physician, Dr Pratap Rana, said: "For the drug to work it is crucial patients are brought to the hospital quickly. Hence, it is important for the public to identify the signs of stroke immediately and ask for an emergency ambulance as soon as possible. If patients



Thomas Greenwood with his wife Isabel

Our stroke team with Dr Rana, centre back



come to us within the three hours of onset of symptoms and the clot busting drug is given, it can make all the difference to their lives and to the impact of a stroke."

Retired finance company director, Thomas Greenwood, 78, from Cragg Vale, Calderdale, was among the first patients to benefit from the new service. He was sitting in a chair at home when suddenly his speech went and the right side of his

face started to droop.

His wife, Isabel, had been talking to him and he wasn't replying. When she looked across at him she saw his mouth was drooping and she immediately recognised signs of a stroke and called for an ambulance. A responder arrived in 10 minutes, an ambulance in 15 minutes and, within an hour, Mr Greenwood was at CRH where a specialist team including a specialist stroke nurse

and stroke physician was expecting him upon arrival.

A FAST test was positive and a CT scan was done within 20 minutes of arrival at A&E. He received clot busting treatment immediately after the CT scan and was admitted to the acute stroke unit where he made a full recovery from his speech problem and facial droop. He was discharged after a four-day stay with minimal effects of stroke.



## Factfile

- A patient should reach hospital in two hours after the onset of symptoms if they are aged over 80; and in 3.5 hours if under 80. The tests and drugs take an hour to administer upon arrival.
- It takes about an hour to assess the patient and do a CT scan of the brain before the drug, called Alteplase, can be administered.
- All trusts are expected to deliver the 24/7 services and currently around 70% of Trusts nationally are providing it.

## Ward 8 is great

Patients and staff have moved back onto Ward 8 – the latest ward at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary to have been totally modernised and refurbished.

The ward has been totally redesigned and re-equipped during a nine-months overhaul. It is the latest in a £10m rolling programme of upgrades at the 1960s built hospital.



From left:  
staff Gillian King, Julie Thompson, Christine Cartwright and Maureen Gaunt

## ACU party at end of busiest year

The 16th annual party for families who have been cared for by the assisted conception unit (ACU) was held as the ACU team celebrates its busiest ever year.

The clinics at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and Calderdale Royal Hospital, cared for 737 new couples in the past year - the highest ever - and the unit has continued to expand its nursing staff.

Couples at the unit are now benefiting from embryoscope monitoring where photos are taken every 10 minutes of the developing embryo. This determines which is the strongest for implantation to improve the chances of becoming pregnant.



Baby Austin Willimot with mum Laura and dad Dave at the 16th annual ACU party

to stay with friends in Halifax throughout their care as they had heard such good things about the care from the teams.

Sister Helen Marvell, said: "We are nurse-led and very proud of our teamwork and our close bonds with our families. For us, every couple is special and we deliver the treatment which is unique to them. It's lovely for us to see our mums and dads and their children from years gone by and also to welcome some of our newest babies back for a party."

Head of the unit, Martin DeBono, said: "This day is always a pleasure for me and the team. We know it's not always happy news for our families but when it is, it is always special."

On average this has a 10-20% higher chance of conception and this continues to enhance the unit's rates which are traditionally amongst the highest in the country. The unit even had couples travel from Europe

# Waiting times update

**Waiting Times Snapshot as at 31 March 2014**

SPECIALTY	FIRST O/P	DAY CASE	ELECTIVE I/P
General Surgery	9	11	8
Urology	8	12	9
Trauma and Orthopaedics	8	12	12
Ear, nose and throat	8	13	14
Ophthalmology	12	10	9
Oral Surgery	11	9	0
Plastic Surgery	5	10	N/A
Pain Management	13	12	N/A
Gen.Med (Diab)	7	6	
Respiratory Med	8	Bronch's – 9	
Gastroenterology	9	9	
Haematology	5		
Cardiology	8	Angiography – 6 Pacemaker – 6	
Dermatology	13		
Nephrology	9		
Medical Oncology	1		
Neurology	9		
Rheumatology	9		
Elderly Medicine	5		
Paediatrics	8		
Gynaecology	5	10	9

# Radiology waiting times

**as at the end of March 2014**

Modality	Waiting Time	
	HRI	CRH
MRI	4 WEEKS	4 WEEKS
CT	4 WEEKS	4 WEEKS
US MSK VASCULAR	4 WEEKS 5 – 6 WEEKS 4 WEEKS	4 WEEKS 5 – 6 WEEKS 4 WEEKS
FLUOROSCOPY		
UPPER GI ENEMAS	2 WEEKS 2 WEEKS	3 WEEKS 3 WEEKS
NUCLEAR MEDICINE		
BONES CARDIAC OTHERS	2 – 3 WEEKS 6 WEEKS 6 WEEKS	
Mammography	NO WAITING TIME	NO WAITING TIME

## Key to main waiting times update

**FIRST OP** = GP Referred (routine) First Outpatient Attendance. Times shown are Maximum wait times (in weeks) as at end March 2014.

## DAY CASE AND ELECTIVE INPATIENT

Times shown are average Wait Times (in weeks) from Referral to Treatment (i.e. they include the outpatient wait time within them) for end of March 2014 admissions.

## Key contacts

**Children, Women and Families**  
Divisional director  
Mr Martin DeBono  
**01422 223946**  
Assistant divisional director Kristina Arnold  
**01422 223523**

**Surgery and Anaesthetics**  
Divisional director  
Julie O'Riordan  
**01484 347037**  
Assistant divisional director Julie Barlow  
**01484 347159**

**Medical Division**  
Divisional director  
Dr Ashwin Verma  
**01422 223121**  
Assistant divisional director  
Sajid Azeb  
**01422 222945**

**Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services**  
Divisional director Dr David Birkenhead  
**01484 347115**  
Assistant divisional director Emma Livesley  
**01484 355059**