NUH News
A monthly update for Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust’s key stakeholders

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NUH named Major Trauma Centre for East Midlands

NUH is to become one of the first Major Trauma Centres outside of London from 1 April 2012.

Based at the QMC, the Major Trauma Centre will form the hub of a new trauma system for the whole region which will treat people with very serious, multiple injuries.

They will get 24/7 access to specialist teams of clinicians, intensive care and brain surgery for trauma incidents, like those you would associate with car accidents, serious gun and knife wounds or falling off a horse.

It will be supported by a number of trauma units which are being set up at other hospitals around the region that will stabilise patients who need to be transferred on to the major trauma centre.

Evidence shows that creating a hub and spoke network of a major trauma centre and trauma units supported by the ambulance service can lead to 20% more people with severe injuries being saved every year. Currently around 660 people a year suffer a major trauma injury in the East Midlands.

Peter Homa, Chief Executive of NUH, said: “Becoming the major trauma centre for the East Midlands is a major improvement for patients. NUH is uniquely positioned to take on responsibility to provide this vital service for the region as part of this newly-established regional trauma network. We provide some of the country’s leading specialists and have the range of specialist services, such as neurosurgery, required to deliver an excellent major trauma service to patients with serious multiple injuries. This means that the public from across the East Midlands will have rapid access to excellent specialist expertise and facilities that will help to improve patient care and save more lives.”

Adam Brooks, Consultant Surgeon and Clinical Lead for Trauma at NUH, said: “Nottingham’s trauma and emergency care services already have a strong reputation nationally. We are now provided with an opportunity to build on this and develop a leading edge major trauma service providing excellent care to patients who suffer serious injury and give them the very best chances of survival and recovery.”

Why we’re making ‘Mealtimes Matter’ for patients

We’ve launched a new initiative to ensure that our staff and patients are getting all of the support they need to eat well in our hospitals.

The ‘Mealtimes Matter’ programme gives a protected time when all non-essential activities on the wards will stop. This prevents unnecessary interruptions at mealtimes. The nurses, catering staff and volunteers will be available to help serve the food and give assistance to patients who need extra support.
However, please be reassured that all emergency care will still be carried out on our wards during these times.

Patients have told us that they prefer to eat their meals in a relaxed and calm atmosphere. We are responding to this feedback. ‘Mealtimes Matter’ helps patients eat better and gives time to socialise and digest their food by reducing noise and distractions on the ward.

Apart from the patients, people on the wards will be kept to a minimum. There will be nursing staff, domestic staff and volunteers available to help encourage and monitor the patients’ food intake during their mealtime and make it an enjoyable experience.

Relatives and carers supporting their loved ones are very welcome on our wards during mealtimes.

Jenny Leggott, Director of Nursing at NUH, said: “Meals help our patients to get better. Good nutrition helps to prevent pressure ulcers, ensures our patients regain their strength so that they don’t fall, and is an essential element of the care that we give.”

**Help us to raise funds for our new CF unit**

We have unveiled plans to create a new state-of-the-art cystic fibrosis (CF) unit. The £6.6m centre will be created around the needs of the patients – and will set a new benchmark for the way that patients are cared for.

As part of the project, Nottingham Hospitals Charity has launched a £2.1m fundraising campaign towards the cost of the unit, which will be based at Nottingham City Hospital.

CF is an isolating and devastating condition. Patients cannot mix with other sufferers due to the risk of cross-infecting one another with potentially fatal lung infections, preventing them from getting face-to-face support from the only other people who really understand their illness.

CF patients often spend several months out of every year in hospital, for long periods at a time, separating them from family and friends and taking them away from their homes. The new 16-bed CF unit will be able to serve more than 250 patients from across Nottinghamshire.
and the surrounding counties, almost doubling the number of patients that can be accommodated. Building work is due to start on the new unit in August 2012 and is due to be completed in August 2013.

Click here to read more about the project and how you can help with the fund-raising.

Changes to renal dialysis service for QMC patients

The renal dialysis service currently provided at QMC will transfer to Ling’s Bar Hospital, Gamston, from April.

The dialysis clinic operated by Diaverum UK Ltd at QMC opened as a temporary unit in January 2010. The Trust has since been looking at the options for a permanent dialysis unit in the South of Nottingham (including on and off site options) to ensure the continued provision of a high quality service for patients.

The dialysis unit at Ling’s Bar hospital will be provided in a newly-refurbished ward, with Diaverum continuing as the provider. The move will have a number of advantages for patients. These include improved access for patients, dedicated parking and a better environment.

New renal unit in memory of NUH clinical director

NUH has officially opened a state-of-the-art renal dialysis satellite unit at King’s Mill Hospital in Mansfield.

The unit provides haemodialysis for patients with kidney disease in a friendly and supportive environment. It boasts the latest technology and design and offers patients much improved surroundings for their care.

The unit is named in memory of Dr Mike Cassidy, who was the Clinical Director for renal services at NUH before his death in 2009.

Geraldine Cassidy was delighted at the request from patients and staff to name the new unit after her late husband. She said: “Mike was instrumental in setting up and running the dialysis unit at King’s Mill. This is a truly wonderful tribute to Mike.”

Have your say on local sexual health services

NUH is working with Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire South Clinical Commissioning Groups to get the views of current and potential users of the sexual health services available.

We need to ensure that the services provided are meeting local need, are cost effective, efficient and accessible to all.

We want to hear from women and men of all ages who have used the sexual health services in Nottingham City and/or Nottinghamshire South or who might use them in the future.

Click here to complete a short questionnaire.

National award nomination for ultrasound improvements

Our ‘Better for You’ Ultrasound project has been nominated in this year’s Advancing Healthcare Awards. The project, which has improved communication between NUH and primary care, and also reduced the waiting time for inpatient scans, has been shortlisted in the awards category ‘Rethinking the patient care pathway’.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in London on 30 March 2012.