



The monthly hospital update for general practitioners

GP Bulletin

Orthopaedic Wait Times

Dear Colleagues – I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given the Orthopaedic Department in helping us to reduce our wait times for surgery. As you know, we have offered patients the opportunity to be treated elsewhere in the short-term, and we have increased our capacity at DCH with a mobile theatre. Our average wait times from referral to treatment are currently:

Mr Barlow	16 weeks
Mr Fernandez	15 weeks
Mr Hilton	19 weeks
Mr Savva	14 weeks
Mr Thacker	14 weeks
Mr Von-Arx	16 weeks
Mr Ward	15 weeks
Mr Walsh	15 weeks
Overall	15 weeks

We will continue to need your support in managing demand for orthopaedics so that we can maintain our shorter waits and indeed reduce them further. We will be sending a newsletter out to you shortly to update you on our developments.

Kind regards,

Mr Peter Ward
Clinical Director
Orthopaedic Department

One-stop Neck Lump Clinic

The Ear, Nose and Throat Department at DCH has developed a one-stop neck lump clinic. This is a consultant-led service run in conjunction with the departments of radiology and histopathology.

The clinic allows us to offer clinical assessment including endoscopic examination of the pharynx and larynx and immediate ultrasound assessment with guided cytology or biopsy as appropriate; cytological assessment is undertaken in the department during the clinic.

This offers a gold standard service, allowing reassurance on the day for the majority of patients and a streamlined journey for those that go on to need further treatment.

It is appropriate for the assessment of all patients with neck lumps including fast-track patients and will be available on the Choose and Book system. Referrals can otherwise be directed to Mr Richard Sim in the department of ENT at Dorset County Hospital.

Gynaecology Unit

Please find below a copy of a letter sent to the Dorset Echo following their front page story about our gynaecology unit. Please feel free to contact Dr Webb if you would like further information on 01305 254644 or e-mail andrew.webb@dchft.nhs.uk

Dear Editor,

Following your front page story (Women 'distressed' over mixed wards, November 20) I felt I should write to reassure patients due to come into our gynaecology unit.

The gynaecology unit is situated in a women's annex on the Short Stay Unit. This is a women-only area which has its own toilet and shower facilities and all the beds are in separate bays.

The gynaecology beds were moved from Chickerell Ward in the summer as the service no longer required so many beds due to advances in treatments and more women being treated as day patients.

Obviously we want patients and staff to feel comfortable on this new unit and of course we appreciate many of the women staying there are going through a difficult time and experience.

We value our staff and appreciate that the move has been unsettling as they have had to get used to working in different ways. We will continue to support them through this period of change.

Ensuring privacy and dignity for all our patients is one of our top priorities and delivering this doesn't just depend on the physical environment. It is also about the way patients are cared for and supported by the team looking after them.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Webb
Medical Director
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

New Consultants



Dr Jozsef (Joe) Illes
Consultant Radiologist

Dr Illes studied at the University of The Witwatersrand Medical School in Johannesburg and completed his MBBCh degree in 1981. He completed his specialist training at the University of Pretoria and received his M. MED. RAD.(D) degree in 1991, and did a mini fellowship in MRI before going into private practice in Johannesburg in 1993. Dr Illes emigrated to the UK in 2004 and settled in Dorchester. He initially did several locums before accepting the substantive post at DCH. His special interests are musculoskeletal and cardiovascular imaging.

Dr Pavlo Milan also joined the radiology team on 3 November – we will include details about Dr Milan's background in the next newsletter.

New Chemotherapy Unit

Staff have opened the doors of the new Fortuneswell Unit to patients following completion of the project to provide a dedicated facility for Chemotherapy Day Care and Haematology Outpatients.



This was the culmination of a great deal of hard work and determination within the team to improve the environment for patients and the result of very generous support from charitable organisations, totalling £316,500. This included contributions from the Fortuneswell Cancer Trust, the Dorset Health Trust, the Hospital League of Friends, the Wessex Cancer Trust and the Dorset County Hospital Cancer Charitable Fund. This sum was matched by funding from the Trust's capital programme.

The new accommodation now comprises clinic rooms, a main treatment room (see below) and side treatment room and a purpose built waiting area (see above).



There is a light and spacious feel which has been appreciated by staff and patients alike. This is particularly true of the glass and steel construction of the waiting area, which will soon be enhanced with surrounding landscaped gardens.

It is hoped that the waiting area will be used by patient support groups and other cancer charitable organisations for meetings and events when the department is not in clinical use.

We look forward to an official opening ceremony where the contribution of all concerned will be formally recognised.

Matthew Sharpe
Cancer Services Manager

Cancer Wait Targets

The cancer services team at DCH is gearing up for the challenge of meeting the new cancer waiting times targets.

The Cancer Reform Strategy set out an expansion of the Cancer Waiting Times targets, to include a broader range of patients with effect from 1 January 2009.

The new targets to be met are listed below - these will all apply from 1 January 2009 unless marked.

- **31 days** from decision to treat to treatment for **subsequent treatments** (currently just first treatment for new cancer only). The new target applies to surgery and drug treatments from January 2009, and to radiotherapy (Poole) and other treatments (yet to be finalised) from January 2011.
- Patients referred routinely can be **upgraded** by a consultant where cancer is suspected. These patients must then receive their first treatment within **62 days** of that upgrade date.
- Patients identified by a national **screening** programme (breast, bowel and cervical) must commence treatment for cancer within **62 days** of receipt of referral.
- All patients with **Breast symptoms** must be seen within **14 days** of referral, not just those with suspected cancer (January 2010)

All targets will be monitored and reported to the national CWT Database from January 2009.

Change to X-ray Open Access Times

Diagnostic Imaging recently performed an audit of capacity and demand at DCH and found that most GP patients attend for x-ray open access in the morning. Unfortunately this often coincides with the numerous clinics requiring imaging, which in turn leads to increased waiting time for GP referrals, and causes clinics to overrun. Therefore, from 5 November, we shifted the time we allow direct GP access to the hours between 12pm – 5pm at DCH (Monday to Friday). This will reduce waiting times, and allow us to spread resources across the day, rather than concentrate them into a few ‘frantic’ hours.

New GP Section on Website

A new GP section has been added to the Dorset County Hospital website, <http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/gp/gpindex.html> This brings together useful links onto one page, including waiting time information and details about forthcoming education events. If there is anything else you would like to be able to access on our website please contact our Communications Manager Susie Palmer via e-mail susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk or call 01305 254683.

Please also contact Susie if there is anything you would like to see included in future editions of this newsletter.

THOMAS SYDENHAM EDUCATION CENTRE
DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL
WILLIAMS AVENUE
DORCHESTER

FORTHCOMING GP LECTURES 2009

OFFENDER HEALTH DAY BREAKING AND ENTERING

Tuesday 20th January 2009

Lunch provided

Lecture 9.00 – 5.00

Dr P Armitage

“The Degree of Civilisation in a Society can be judged by entering its Prisons” (F Dostoyevsky: the House of the Dead)

Come and have a look – Medicine in the 21st Century, in a Prison near you!

A Clinician's guide to the everyday practices of Prison Health Care – General Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, Hepatitis C, BBVs, GU Medicine, PCT Initiatives.....Guest Speakers to die for, and an expert panel on hand to answer your questions

Obstetric & Gynaecology Update

Tuesday 17th March 2009

Lunch 1.00 -2.00 Followed by Lecture 2.00 – 5.00

Consultants from the Obstetric & Gynaecology Department have put together an interesting afternoon of lectures. Including Miss A Cooper Colposcopy “The Team Approach”, Miss A Ryan Whats New in Obstetrics, Mr Siddig Urogynae - Medical & Surgical Approach and Mr Dooley Fit For Fertility. Followed by a discussion with all Consultants present to answer your questions on Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Respiratory Conference

Monday 27th April 2009

Bronchiectasis, Pulmonary Oedema, Hyperventilation Syndrome, Pleural Effusion Service, Psychological advice, Oxygen Therapy, Palliative and End of Life Care. The cost will be £25 per non WGPET Member

Apply by Telephoning Margaret Cosh on 01305 254238 or email Margaret.cosh@dchft.nhs.uk

Safeguarding Children – Child Protection 2-day Course

Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th June 2009

(A Local Safeguarding Children Board Foundation Course)

Required to attend both full days and there is a charge to non WGPET GP's of £100

These courses are aimed at GPs but other related professionals are very welcome to attend.
For non WGPET GPs / other Health Professionals there is a charge of £15 per hour.

Name _____

Address/Dept: _____

Contact Number: _____

20TH January 2009 Offender Health Attend Yes / No

17th March 2009 Obstetric &Gynaecology Update Attend Yes / No

8th & 9th June 2009 Child Protection Training Attend Yes / No
(needs to attend both days and a separate application form needs to be completed)

To apply for Respiratory Conference please contact Margaret Cosh on 01305 254238

Please return reply slip to:

Judy Crabb, Thomas Sydenham Education Centre, Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2JY
01305 255258 or email judy.crabb@dchft.nhs.uk