

Primary Care Matters

Practice staff newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to January's edition of Primary Care Matters.



Dr Sean O'Kelly,
Medical Director

As you know, since the Christmas period the whole health system locally and regionally has been under a great deal of pressure, and of course our hospitals have been no exception.

Our staff have been working extremely hard in recent weeks to respond to the high demand on our services.

As part of our winter resilience preparations, we have opened additional beds and have brought in extra staff to ensure we can maintain the quality of care for our

patients. However, we have also been able to run the majority of elective services as normal.

The Trust would like to thank GP practices for their continued help and support throughout this period.

Earlier this month, the Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre unveiled its new linear accelerator (linac) machine.

This new piece of equipment will enable the treatment of wide range of complex tumours, and we are very pleased to have it up and running at UH Bristol. (see page 2 for more details).

Work progresses on new pre-operative facility



UH Bristol's redevelopment programme took another significant step forwards in December, as the new structure which will house the combined surgical admissions suite and pre-operative assessment clinic was lifted into place on the roof of the BRI's King Edward Building.

A crane was positioned on Marlborough Street, alongside the King Edward Building, to lift 16 prefabricated components onto

the building. These components were then converted into a single structure.

The new facility will allow the Trust to continue providing its existing, first class, pre-operative assessment service along with admission and final checks on the day of surgery.

To watch a time-lapse video of the structure being installed, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/max6yfg>

Update on the fax project

It was good to meet with some of you at the recent Primary Care communication workshops, when we confirmed we intend to change the way we notify practices of the death of a patient.

These will come via CDS or NHSmail (depending on whether you are a CDS practice) rather than being faxed, in line with the decision to stop faxing patient-identifiable information by the end of March 2015.

It was reassuring that the feedback around this positive. This change will be coming very soon, as we are finalising the update of our documentation internally to ensure a smooth transition.

A separate letter will be sent soon to confirm when this change will occur across all areas of the Trust.

If you have any queries or concerns about the fax project in the meantime, please contact Julie.marshall@uhbristol.nhs.uk.

New cancer treatment equipment opens to patients at Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre



NHS patients in the South West will benefit from state of the art radiotherapy treatment following the launch of a new generation linear accelerator (linac) machine at the Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre (BHOC).

The Elekta Versa HD linac, the first in the region, can be used on a wide range of tumours, including more complex ones where highly accurate targeting is needed.

The machine can complete many treatments in a much shorter time, meaning less discomfort for patients, and has the added benefit of using 30% less energy than previous models.

Friends of Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre have pledged to raise the £2 million cost of the machine, which treated its first patients in December.

John Miles MBE, chair of trustees for the charity said: "Everyone at the charity is delighted to see the new linear accelerator in use, but we are appealing to the public to help us raise the remaining £800,000 towards the cost of the machine until we reach our target of £2 million."

Dr Matthew Beasley, consultant clinical oncologist and

head of radiotherapy at BHOC said: "This new machine will allow us to give radiotherapy with greater speed and precision. It will benefit patients with a whole range of cancers. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has raised money towards this appeal."

In addition to the linear accelerator, a further £80,000 has been raised for Friends of Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre by Bristol man Alistair Cole.

These funds have been used to purchase a VMAT Phantom, a piece of equipment that will also be used for many patients receiving complex rotational treatment on the linac, to ensure they benefit from the most accurate dose delivery possible during treatment.

Mr Cole's fundraising efforts included walking from Land's End to John O'Groats, and were in memory of his sister.

The launch event was attended by one of the first patients to receive treatment on the new linac, representatives of the Trust's clinical and management teams and Trustees of Friends of Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre.