

NHS Update – May 2011**New Cardiac Rehabilitation Service in Chippenham**

NHS Wiltshire is launching a new Cardiac Rehabilitation service in Chippenham this month as part of a continuing programme to improve access to cardiac rehabilitation and physical activity classes across the county.

Building on the success of nurse-led classes in Westbury, Cardiac Rehabilitation classes will be provided weekly at the Olympiad Leisure Centre in Chippenham for eligible cardiac patients who are registered with a Wiltshire GP. The programme takes place over nine weeks and depending on their condition, Chippenham patients will have the choice of participating either at The Royal United Hospital, Bath or at the Olympiad.

The aim of the community Cardiac Rehabilitation service is to provide all patients who meet the referral criteria with a service which improves their ability to exercise, vastly improving a person's quality of life and minimising the risk of heart attacks in the future. The rehabilitation exercises are designed to support adult patients who have been discharged from hospital but who are continuing to live with heart disease. Structured exercise training, as well as continuing educational and psychological support and advice are key components of the service. The nurse-led cardiac rehabilitation classes provide a link for people to then attend other cardiac rehabilitation opportunities available at Wiltshire's leisure centres.

Prime Minister and Health Secretary announce a two month pause on plans

The Government's Health Select Committee has made 50 recommendations to the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 and as a consequence the Department of Health has announced a 'pause' as the Bill moves through the House of Commons. The Government will conduct a 'listening exercise' consultation and set up the NHS Future Forum to channel the thoughts and opinions of patient representatives, doctors, nurses and NHS leaders back to Government. The engagement process will focus on four main areas: choice and competition, patient involvement and patient accountability, clinical advice and leadership and education and training. For more information and to get involved please go to: <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/category/conversations/listening-exercise-conversations/>