

Partner Update – RUH Bath

Best in class hyper-acute stroke services now available for Wiltshire residents

There has been much in the press recently relating to the need for 7 day health services and the National Audit office conducted an analysis which found that 350 people unnecessarily die within seven days of their stroke simply because they were admitted at the weekend. The RUH's stroke service has been recognised as amongst the best in the country according to the Dr Foster report 2011 and the National Stroke Audit 2012. Its stroke research team also won a highly commended award from the National Institute for Health Research in 2012. It is now delighted to report that it received a grant from the local stroke network in 2012 for a pilot of 7 day stroke therapy. This commenced in September 2012 and is proving very successful. In April 2013, a 7 day TIA (ministroke) clinic will also be starting which will help prevent local people going on to suffer the consequences of a full stroke.

Significant investment in dementia care

The Royal United Hospital Bath, together with partners in Wiltshire and BaNES, has been successful in its £450,000 application to the NHS South Dementia Challenge fund. The CQUIN PLUS: Integrating hospital and community care pathways project is led by Dr Chris Dyer, consultant Geriatrician. The aim is to implement and evaluate an innovative pathway of care for patients with dementia based on best practice. This includes; access to the right staff and skills 7 days per week including a much increased mental health liaison service, improved timeframes for assessment and intervention, and puts carers at the heart of the service. In addition the project will ensure an optimal environment using care bundles and technological solutions, alongside follow up pathways which support carers and avoid readmission. The RUH is working closely with, among others, Wiltshire Council, Alzheimer's Support and the Alzheimer's Society and the intention is to ensure the RUH is recognised as the best hospital in the UK for the quality of its dementia care.

Specialist vascular services review

Changes in the NHS landscape from 1st April 2013 will bring vascular services under the remit of commissioning by the NHS Commissioning Board through their Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset & South Gloucestershire Area Team. To ensure consistent standards of care are achieved, the Commissioning Board have recently published national service specifications. These standards encourage networking of hospitals to achieve the scale of activity which will support dedicated specialist vascular expertise and best-

practice 24/7 provision. These changes will impact on all providers of vascular services. RUH Bath has now commenced its review of vascular provision in a network with Bristol Hospitals. Over the following 3-6 months it will be seeking to establish the most appropriate model for future delivery - which complies with national specifications whilst maintaining sufficient capacity, quality of associated services eg stroke and accessibility for the populations it serves. RUH has traditionally been a leader in key fields of vascular surgery and interventional radiology. It will be working with CCGs and seeking the views of Wiltshire stakeholders across the review period to ensure that the highest quality of services and experience for patients is maintained into the future.

From February 2013, an interim 24/7 on-call rota, specific to emergency vascular surgery, has been arranged with Bristol in order to maintain compliance with national guidelines pending completion of the review. This will mean that, where appropriate, some emergency treatment of Wiltshire patients has the potential to take place in Bristol where a specialist on-call surgeon will always be based. When patients have recovered from their procedure, care will be transferred back to Bath or the community as appropriate.