

GPConnect

May 2018

Keeping GP Practices up-to-date with news from The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

New A&E consultant appointed

The Trust has appointed a new substantive A&E consultant for the first time in four years.

It is the fifth consultant recruitment in recent weeks, with two being appointed in Ear, Nose and Throat and a further two consultants in Bariatric Surgery.

Simon Wright, the Trust's Chief Executive, says the appointments are a clear indication that the certainty over funding for Future Fit is already having an impact on recruitment to the Trust.

Up until now, the Trust has been unable to appoint substantive consultants, or Middle Grade doctors, to its A&E Departments at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital, despite repeated job adverts. In the last six months, two consultants have left the Trust, but none have been recruited. Whilst there is a national shortage of A&E consultants, feedback from potential candidates for the post within the Trust has suggested that a two-site model and the on-call rota was not an attractive offer.

Currently there are only three substantive consultants in post, with only two available to work cross-site. Four locum consultants are also in post. It means that the on-call rota is particularly demanding for the substantive workforce, some of whom have to consistently provide cover twice a week.

Simon said that two recent job adverts had prompted a number of applicants for the A&E substantive consultant posts, who will be interviewed over the next few weeks - with one already being appointed on 30 April.

Simon added: **"Since the decision was made to secure the capital funding for Future Fit and the reconfiguration of our hospital services, we are seeing people really making a decision to come into Shropshire and make this their workplace and their home. We have had a number of people apply to be a substantive A&E consultant. It is a significant shift as previously we had no responses to our adverts. This is very positive news as it will help to strengthen our A&Es."**

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine does recommend that all A&E departments should have an establishment of at least 10 Emergency Medicine consultants to provide up to 16 hours a day of consultant cover.

The Shropshire and Mid Wales Fertility Centre is on the move

As previously reported in GPConnect, the Shropshire and Mid Wales Fertility Centre is moving from its current location at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to new bespoke premises at the Severn Fields



Health Village, Sundorne Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 4RQ.

The relocation is happening over a period of about 6 weeks during June/July 2018, and it is anticipated that IVF/ICSI treatments will be recommencing at Severn Fields from 9 July. During the period of the move other fertility appointments will continue at both RSH and PRH as they do now, with a view to most of the appointments being undertaken at Severn Fields from 2 July. Consultant clinics will remain at RSH/PRH for the foreseeable future.

Please be assured that the move has been carefully planned, under guidance given by the Centre's licencing body, the HFEA. Specialist hospital couriers have been employed to assist with this, including the movement of frozen embryos and gametes to the new location.

Post-vasectomy semen samples will continue to be analysed at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital until 27 June. If a GP practice has any gentlemen intending to bring their samples in person to the Fertility Centre the last day the samples can be received at RSH is 29 June, and after this men will need to take their samples directly to Severn Fields.

GP practices may continue to submit post-vasectomy semen samples by courier as they do now, and the samples will be forwarded on to Severn Fields. A new form reflecting this is being sent out to GP practices, and stocks of these forms will shortly be arriving with you. Please contact the Centre on (01743) 261199 if your practice does not receive these forms in the next few weeks.

The Fertility Centre's contact phone numbers will remain unchanged, both during and after the move. If you have any queries or concerns about the move please contact Claire Corfield, the Centre's Quality Manager, on (01743) 261000 ext. 1772.

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Patients encouraged to get up, get dressed and get active

Wards across Shropshire's two acute hospitals are being encouraged to 'end PJ paralysis' by getting as many patients as possible up out of bed, dressed and moving.

Launched on 17 April, NHS England's #EndPJparalysis challenge aims to improve recovery, shorten hospital stays and boost the morale of patients and staff by encouraging patients to get up and dressed every day, where practical. But it is not just about getting people out of their pyjamas, it is about early mobilisation, dignity and privacy, and reviewing catheters and IV lines and thinking about whether they can be removed.



The 70-day challenge will run until 26 June, just before the NHS's 70th birthday on 5 July.



As part of the campaign there are a number of initiatives taking place on the wards at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital. Deirdre Fowler, Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Quality at the Trust (*pictured left*) said: **"Patients on Ward 16 Stroke Rehabilitation have been doing exercises to some of their favourite musical artists, while on Ward 15 Acute Stroke they are playing balloon tennis to get up and mobilised. Patients have been having lots of fun on the ward while tackling a really important issue. It is great to see patients dressed and around a table while playing with a balloon, instead of lying in a hospital bed."**

"Staff on Ward 6 Cardiology came to work in their gym kit to lead exercise classes with their patients, but perhaps even more fun was the number of staff walking around our hospitals in their pyjamas. I say fun, but what they are doing is actually tackling a really serious issue as it makes us realise how uncomfortable and sluggish we feel when wearing pyjamas. If we feel

like that, imagine how patients feel when they are in their pyjamas all day.

"All of our wards are taking part in this challenge and it is really encouraging to see how everyone has embraced it- and believe me, it won't just finish at the end of the 70 days! If something is making such a difference to patient care, why would we stop?"

Other initiatives taking place across the wards include encouraging patients to collect their own drinks from the beverage trolleys and helping patients to get up and move to the toilet, instead of using a commode. Whether it's walking around their bed or making it over to the bathroom, it all makes a difference. In fact, research quoted by NHS England shows that 10 days of bed rest in hospital ages the muscles by the equivalent of 10 years in people over 80.

Results of a pilot #EndPJparalysis scheme found that hospital stays were shorter and patients' muscles stayed stronger, cutting the number of falls and reducing the need for institutional care after discharge. Less food was wasted because patients were more mobile and so using up more energy, and the wellbeing of both patients and staff improved.

It can also help to ensure more hospital beds are available by improving patient flow through our hospitals, enabling more timely discharges, reducing the patients' length of stay, and freeing up beds for the sickest patients as a priority.

Extra capacity put in place by the Trust for catch-up NHS breast screening sessions

Since early May the Trust has been putting in place extra capacity for women in Shropshire and mid Wales, aged between 70 and 79, to have a catch-up breast screening appointment after a national NHS IT problem which was reported in the media.

The catch-up sessions are for women who have been identified as not receiving their invitation from the NHS breast screening programme, due to the national IT problem with the breast screening invitation system. These extra appointments will be in addition to the normal NHS breast screening sessions.

Women affected by the national IT error are being sent letters offering them the opportunity to attend for breast screening, with appointments from mid-May onwards.

Staff at the Trust have been volunteering to work extra hours to ensure that all women who want appointments can be seen within six months. Nigel Lee, the Trust's Chief Operating Officer, said: **"We are putting in place additional screening capacity so that those women who did not receive their invitations due to the national NHS IT problem can have a catch-up breast screening session by the end of October. These appointments will be in addition to our current sessions, so that the normal screening programme is not affected."**

"In order to do this our staff are volunteering to work extra hours, and so I would like to thank them for their commitment towards helping us to achieve this, ensuring that all those women who want a catch-up breast screening appointment can be seen as quickly as possible."

Women can seek advice by calling the national helpline number on 0800 169 2692.