

## Changes to Adult Congenital Heart Disease Services in the North West

### Important information for patients

NHS England is currently conducting a national public consultation on how it will put in place new standards for hospitals providing congenital heart disease services in England. It follows the publication in 2015 of a new set of quality standards for all hospitals providing congenital heart disease services covering both adults and children.

You may already know that as part of that process, NHS England published a plan in June 2016 that they were minded to remove the Adult Congenital Cardiac Surgery services from Manchester Royal Infirmary (not including maternity services) and transfer them to Liverpool. In a subsequent document the transfer of services also included interventional ACHD cardiology procedures. This is currently part of the national consultation.

Unfortunately the uncertainty surrounding the future of the services in Manchester has meant that some of our senior doctors have now left the service. As the service is so specialised we have not been able to replace these doctors in the short term, which means that we can no longer provide this service in Manchester.

As an organisation, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CMFT) is deeply disappointed and sorry that we are unable to continue to deliver these services at this time.

We realise the impact that this will have on your ongoing care and the anxiety this will cause you. We have therefore worked with NHS England to find partners to support us in providing the service during the consultation period.

The specialist ACHD centres in Leeds and Newcastle, together with the Pulmonary Vascular Disease Unit in Sheffield, are working with us to try and reduce the impact on you as much as possible. It does mean however that there will have to be some changes to the service whilst the national consultation is finished.

Please read the attached questions and answers carefully. If you want to speak to someone about the CMFT service changes and what these may mean for you, please contact the CMFT dedicated patient information line on 0161 701 2253 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday as from Monday 19th June 2017) or e-mail: [achdinfo@cmft.nhs.uk](mailto:achdinfo@cmft.nhs.uk). You can also contact this helpline on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 10am – 3pm.

## **Some of your questions answered**

### **What will continue to be provided by Manchester?**

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 CMFT will continue to provide:

- A dedicated ACHD Clinical Nurse Specialist service and support on site
- Most outpatient services including diagnostic tests
- Non-cardiac surgery for adults and children with ACHD in all of our hospitals including the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, University Dental Hospital of Manchester and Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI)
- Maternity care for women with ACHD and pre-conception counselling.

CMFT doctors and nurses will continue to provide advice and support about your care to the doctors and nurses in your local area, if required.

### **What will the other centres provide for ACHD?**

We are putting in place safe arrangements for your care. We have agreed arrangements with NHS England for your ongoing care:

- If you have planned surgery or require emergency ACHD surgery
- If you need an ACHD cardiology procedure
- If you are an ACHD inpatient
- If you are an ACHD patient who needs to attend outpatients.

We are working with the specialist ACHD centres in Leeds and Newcastle, together with the Pulmonary Vascular Disease Unit in Sheffield so that there is a handover of your care to specialist consultant for adult patients. This may mean that you receive care on the Manchester site from a specialist doctor from any of these three centres or it may mean that you have to travel for expert care to one of these centres. This will form part of a clinical discussion taking into consideration your preferences.

### **What will happen to those patients who are waiting for surgery?**

The North West multi-disciplinary congenital disease team (MDT) which is made up of specialist doctors and nurses will contact patients to discuss their treatment options. This is likely to mean that some patients will have their surgery outside the North West. This will form part of a clinical discussion with the patient and patient's representatives who will be able to choose where to have their surgery wherever possible.

### **What will happen to patients who require emergency care?**

If you have to attend any of our hospitals or your local hospital as an emergency, you will be stabilised and managed by the doctors until you are fit for transfer to a specialist centre, if that is required.

### **What about travel arrangements for patients who do have to travel to other centres for treatment?**

Patients who need to travel to another hospital for elective (planned) treatment will be supported to make appropriate travel arrangements.

### **Will the MDT (multi-disciplinary team) meetings continue?**

The MDT meetings will continue with specialist doctors providing advice from Leeds, Sheffield and Newcastle.

### **How will patients be kept informed of developments?**

NHS England and CMFT have arranged an open meeting for patients on **Saturday 1st July 2017 at 11am in the NOWGEN Centre at MRI** to answer your questions. We hope you will be able to attend. Details of the Nowgen Centre are available [here](#).

We also aim to produce regular updates that will be shared with patients and their representatives, and arrange further meetings.

**How does this relate to the ongoing national consultation on CHD care?**

NHS England is currently conducting a national public consultation on how it will put in place new standards for hospitals providing congenital heart disease services in England. It follows the publication in 2015 of a new set of quality standards for all hospital providing congenital heart disease services.

The consultation aims to gather as many views as possible from patients, families and clinical experts and will include face to face meetings around the country, webinars, and an online survey and we would encourage you to respond. The consultation deadline has been extended to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 due to the General Election. More information can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/02/chd-consultation/>.

Using the information gathered, NHS England will take a final decision on how services should be provided across England. It is expected that this decision will be announced in early 2018.