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Final Version

Briefing – Urgent Care Redesign

Part of NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group's commissioning intentions 13/14 included a review of the current urgent care facilities across the borough, development of a preferred model of care and completion of a formal three month public consultation. The new model of care has been designed to reduce pressures on capacity with Accident and Emergency departments and also provide innovative ways of working with partner organisations such as North West Ambulance Service, Acute Hospitals and community NHS trusts. Below is an outline of the proposed changes.

NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group completed the public consultation on 31st August 2013 and is in the process of developing the operational model in partnership with Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Urgent Care-24 (GP Out Of Hours), NHS property services, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals and Bridgewater Community NHS Trust this will include the development of a business case. The implementation phase is planned for completion in September 2014, taking into account any contingency plans that may need to be actioned.

Interim Winter Arrangements

In the Winter of 2013 NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group will work with partners to extend current provision to improve outcomes for Patients until the preferred model can be implemented during 2014 the interim arrangements will not affect the final model, the Winter arrangements will include redesigning the Widnes Walk In Centre building space to accommodate an x-ray, paediatric cold room and ultra sound facility. Access to CT, MRI, planned investigations and step up beds within Halton Hospital has also been extended, together with additional emergency access clinics staffed by A&E senior clinicians and the development of an Acute Visiting Scheme supported by North West Ambulance Service and Urgent care 24 (GP-out of Hours provider)

Proposal Summary of Halton Urgent Care Centres

- Maintain the current Widnes Walk-in Centre and provide extra facilities

A nurse-led primary care facility that deals with illnesses and injuries - including infections and rashes, lacerations, emergency contraception and advice, stomach upsets, cuts and bruises, or minor burns and strains - without the need to register or make an appointment. It is not designed for treating long-term conditions or life threatening conditions. Current opening times- 7am- 10pm Monday to Sunday

- Create a new Walk-in Centre in place of the Minor Injuries Unit at Halton Hospital, and provide extra facilities

Currently the service is open 9am to 10pm 7 days per week, the unit provides treatment for less severe injuries such as sprains, broken bones, cuts and grazes, infected wounds, eyes problems, emergency contraception and skin infections. As above the unit is not designed for treating long term conditions or life threatening conditions.

The extra facilities proposed for both Walk-in-centres are:

X-ray: which is a test that is often used to produce pictures of dense tissues inside the body such as bones

Ultrasound: which is a painless test that uses sound waves to create pictures of organs and structures within the body

Paediatric specialist nursing provision / Paediatric cold room

Proposal Summary of Clinical Decision Unit

Extend services at the Halton Hospital Runcorn Site to include a Clinical Decision Unit

A clinical decision unit is a unit designed to manage urgent medical problems that cannot be dealt with in the community by your own GP. The unit is headed by doctors, who have access to urgent blood tests, x-rays and other tests.

Once you have been assessed and a diagnosis made, you may be discharged with treatment and/or other support or referred onto a specialist doctor for more expert opinion or admitted into a hospital bed (depending on your condition).

Patients attending the clinical decisions unit would normally be referred by their own GP, the doctor at the Urgent Care Centre or by the Ambulance Service.

Types of conditions include:

Chest pains

Abdominal pain

Breathing difficulties

Dehydration

Fits (seizures)

Additionally a number of new outpatients clinics have started being provided out of Widnes Health Care Resource Centre which includes Vascular Services

For further inquiries or questions please do not hesitate to contact NHS Halton CCG.

With thanks and regards,

Signature

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