

Agenda Item 6

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	22 July 2020
Subject:	Supplementary Chairman's Announcements

1. Fishtoft Road Dialysis Unit, Boston

At the last meeting of the Committee, it was reported that building works had continued through the pandemic on the new dialysis unit in Fishtoft Road, Boston. University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL), which contracts out this service, has advised that the unit has now received its registration from the Care Quality Commission and on 20 July 2020 received its first patients. The Fishtoft Road unit has replaced the previous unit in Boston, with five more dialysis stations, making a total of 17 in all. This will help to prevent the need for local patients to travel to neighbouring dialysis units.

2. Review of Renal Services

In early 2020 the Midlands Regional Renal Network of NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) began a review of renal services in the Midlands as part of the national renal strategy. NHSE/I has stated that whilst the review was paused owing to Covid-19, which impacted primary care, out-patient appointments and inpatient services, the experience of the pandemic has helped to develop the requirements for service resilience.

Over the next few weeks NHSE/I is reviewing every area of the service, and has set out the following intentions:

- Primary Care - To reduce the number of patients developing chronic kidney disease through improved information sharing, education for patients and more training and support for clinical staff.
- Kidney Transplant Centres - To promote a network of kidney transplant centres and increase the number of live donors as well as increasing the earlier identification of transplant patients in non-transplant centres. Covid-19 stopped all kidney transplants and the challenge is to re-start them and continue the trend of a decreasing waiting list of adult patients waiting for a transplant.
- Vascular Services - To develop regionalised standardised access to vascular services and the development of a regional pathway to remove inequalities from the service. Covid-19 almost stopped all elective vascular services. Some have restarted but others not.

- Dialysis Services - As the numbers of end stage kidney disease patients increase every year, to review capacity to ensure critical care can be supported in the event of another pandemic and to continue increasing the use of dialysis at home, rather than in centres. Dialysis services were interrupted by Covid-19, with more critical care patients needing renal replacement therapy.
- Transport Services - To look at transport services, as patient feedback continually tells us that the service causes delays and is inequitable as not all patients receive the same transfer arrangements. We will review this to standardise the service to the benefit of patients and the renal service care they receive.

Patient experience feedback and a report from Kidney Care UK is helping to develop a planning document for renal services, which will be shared with clinicians, managers, partners and stakeholders for their input and feedback.

3. Powers for Local Authorities During Covid-19 Pandemic

On 18 July 2020, county councils were given new powers to respond to a serious and imminent threat to public health; and to prevent coronavirus transmission in a council's area where this is necessary and proportionate to manage spread of Covid-19. The regulations include powers for local authorities to:

- restrict access to, or close, individual premises;
- prohibit certain events (or types of event) from taking place; and
- restrict access to, or close, public outdoor places (or types of outdoor public places).

The new regulations are supported by guidance. To use the new powers, local authorities will need to demonstrate with sufficient evidence that three conditions have been met and there is sufficient evidence. More details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-powers-to-impose-restrictions-under-coronavirus-regulations/local-authority-powers-to-impose-restrictions-health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-england-no3-regulations-2020>

4. Parking at Hospitals

On 21 July 2020, North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (NWAFT) announced that it had reluctantly taken the decision to reinstate car parking charges for patients and visitors at Peterborough City Hospital from 3 August 2020. This followed the Government's recent announcement that it can no longer subsidise car parking at hospitals as part of its pandemic support funding.

NWAFT also announced that free parking for NHS staff in recognition of their support and dedication during the Covid-19 pandemic would continue.

At United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust parking was suspended on 20 March 2020 for patients and visitors; and for staff from 1 April until 31 July. These arrangements remain in place.

Further details on parking charges at other hospitals most often used by Lincolnshire residents will be provided at the September meeting.

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