

Hospital urology services consultation- have your say



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As part of our ongoing commitment to continually improve hospital services, we are currently undertaking a review of both planned and emergency urology services across Lincolnshire's hospitals.

Currently, planned urology services are delivered from Lincoln County Hospital, Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, Grantham and District Hospital and County Hospital, Louth.

Emergency urology admissions at the weekends go through one single site- alternating between Lincoln and Pilgrim hospitals- with emergency admissions at both Lincoln and Pilgrim hospitals during the week.

Taking into account patient experience insight, expert clinical advice, discussions with partners and available data, we are proposing that Lincoln County Hospital in future receives all emergency urology admissions seven days per week.

We believe that this change would increase our capacity to perform planned surgery without disruption to patients, better meet the needs of our emergency cases and see and treat more people.

We now want to hear from you about your views around this proposed change.



At present, our consultants and middle grade doctors within the urology service are required to perform planned surgery and be on-call for urgent surgical requirements at the same time. This concerns us because:

- Our consultants and middle grade doctors become exhausted as they can receive urgent on-call requests during the night and be expected to perform planned surgeries the next day.
- They can be performing a planned surgery during the day and be called out to perform an emergency surgery.
- This impacts on our ability to respond as quickly as we would like to emergency surgical needs.
- It also causes us to have to cancel planned surgeries at short notice - typically, we cancel over 1,300 operations across ULHT every year for urology-related procedures.



Our proposal would be to create a separation of duty, so that our consultants would be either on-call or scheduled to perform planned surgery. They would not be required to fulfil both duties at the same time.

In order to successfully implement this rota, we need to look at the location of urology surgery provision across the county.

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Patient viewpoint

Analysis of patient experience data from between January and November 2020 shows that over 90% of patients would recommend the service to Friends and Family.

But issues captured during Friends and Family surveys and Patient Experience feedback focusses on access to urology services, cancellations of appointments and appointment delays. The reconfiguration of the service will aim to address these concerns.



Emergency surgery

In the proposed model of service, if you were to have an urgent urological condition requiring admission to the Emergency Department by ambulance, you would be taken directly to Lincoln County Hospital. Lincoln County Hospital would have the resources to be able to attend to your needs quickly with access to the on-call consultant.

This would be the case seven days a week.

Page 45 If you attend the Emergency Department at Pilgrim hospital with a urology condition as a walk-in, you would be assessed as normal. If you were then diagnosed with an urgent urinary condition, providing your condition is stable, you would be transferred to Lincoln County Hospital by ambulance for treatment and surgical intervention as required.

In this event, your treatment would not be delayed. The team at Pilgrim hospital would ensure that any immediate requirements in terms of medication and stabilisation were administered, prior to transfer to Lincoln County Hospital.

In the event your condition could not be stabilised and you were considered not medically fit for transfer, you would be admitted to Pilgrim hospital for your treatment and the on-call consultant would be required to attend to you at that location.



Planned surgery

At the moment, a choice of location is given for you to have your planned surgery. This can be at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, Grantham and District Hospital, Lincoln County Hospital or County Hospital, Louth. You normally choose to have your surgery at the location with the shortest waiting time. This would not change. You would still have a choice as we would continue to provide planned surgery at all of our sites

Follow-up care/outpatient appointments

There are no changes proposed to the location of follow-up appointments, post treatment/surgery. You would still be able to attend the hospital of your choice for your follow-up appointments. There would not be any impact on you in terms of access to services and distance of travel.

Details of the proposed changes



Stays the same



Proposed change



Lincoln

- Elective and day case theatre lists
- Urology investigation suite services
- Outpatient services
- Receiving site for emergency procedures
- Non elective inpatients and elective inpatients

- Receiving site for Trustwide emergency procedures
- Urology dedicated emergency theatre list
- Dedicated urology assessment unit



Pilgrim

- Elective and day case theatre lists
- Urology investigation suite services
- Outpatient services
- Elective inpatients

- Dedicated urology assessment unit
- Non elective admissions to be admitted at Lincoln



Grantham

- Elective and day case theatre lists
- Urology investigation suite services
- Outpatient services
- Elective inpatients

- Weekday increase of elective and day case theatres
- Elective level 1, once appropriate infrastructure in place



Louth

- Day case theatre lists
- Urology investigation suite services
- Outpatient services
- Lithotripsy

- Nothing – all services at Louth to remain the same



The table below shows a summary of activity, comparing the current position by site with the proposed future model.

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Day case and elective demand			
Location	Current	Proposed	Annual Change
Louth	638	638	No change
Grantham	216	916	700 increase
Lincoln	1,534	710	824 reduction
Pilgrim	988	1,112	124 increase



Non elective demand				
Location	Type	Current	Proposed	Annual Change
Lincoln	Overnight	650	1,034	384 increase
	Same Day	313	313	No change
Pilgrim	Overnight	384	0	384 reduction
	Same Day	233	233	No change



Average data from 2017 to 2020 inclusive showing the quantity of cancelled urology procedures, including who cancelled the procedure, what the timeline was and the headline reasons.

Around 1,900 cancelled procedures annually.

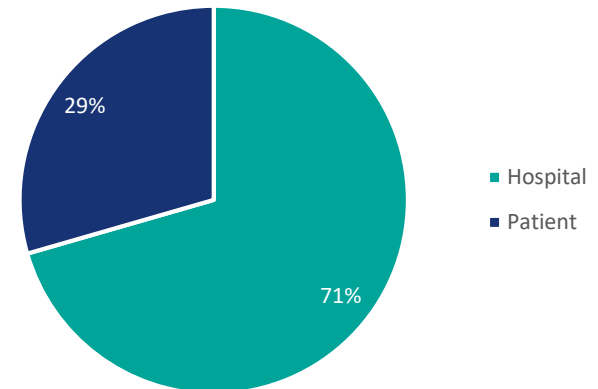
- 1,300 cancelled by the hospital
- 600 cancelled by the patient

Around 25% of procedures are cancelled on the day of the planned procedure.

Around 10% of hospital cancelled procedures are due to lack of available beds

Around 7% of hospital cancelled procedures are due to lack of surgeon availability

2019 to 2020 cancellations by stakeholder group



Elective and day case hospital location data



The data below provides an overview of where patients currently have urology procedures based on the GP practice that referred them. The data confirms that patients attend the hospital based on the shortest lead time and not necessarily the hospital closest to them. This evidence supports the hypothesis that patients are offered a choice of location for their procedure.

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Lincoln

72%

patients with a GP
postcode prefix of
LN1 to LN6 had their
procedure at Lincoln
County



Pilgrim

76%

patients with a GP
postcode prefix of PE
had their procedure
at Pilgrim



Grantham

37%

patients with a GP
postcode prefix of NG
had their procedure
at Grantham



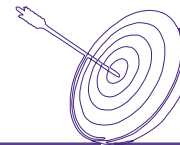
Louth

32%

patients with a GP
postcode prefix of
LN11 to LN13 had
their procedure at
Louth



- Reduced waiting list and pathway times for cancer patients.
- Reduced patient waiting times.
- Reduction in cancelled procedures.
- Reduction in non-elective admission and overall bed usage.
- Continuity and consistency of care.
- Work with system to provide best care for Lincolnshire patients.
- Stepped-up urology assessment unit.
- Improved flow from emergency department.



To offer up your views about these proposals, and contribute to shaping our urology service:

- Fill in our [ULHT Urology Survey](#)
- Attend one of our virtual consultation meetings, using the links below:
 - [Friday 21 May 2pm-3pm](#)
 - [Wednesday 9 June 6.30pm-7.30pm](#)
 - [Thursday 24 June 10am-11am](#)
 - [Tuesday 13 July 10am-11am](#)
 - [Tuesday 20 July 6.30pm-7.30pm](#)

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This consultation exercise closes on Friday 23 July 2021.

If you require an accessible version of our consultation materials, please contact communications@ulh.nhs.uk or call 01522 573986.