

GP Bulletin – January 2019

Bradford community launch event for new modified consistency diet and fluid descriptors – 12th February 2019

The Speech and Language Therapy service are improving patient safety by introducing changes to how the different consistencies of diet and fluids are labelled and described. This is relevant to service users with dysphagia (swallowing difficulties), those who require modified diet and fluids and anyone that supports people with dysphagia. The event takes place on Tuesday 12th February 2019 10.00am - 3.00pm (no booking required, drop-in anytime) at Carlisle Hall, Carlisle Business Centre, 60 Carlisle Rd, Bradford BD8 8BD.

Please see the below documents for further information.



IDDSI Grab Guide
2019 .pdf



IDDSI launch
flyer.pdf

BRI's Maternity Assessment Centre is now open around the clock

Bradford Royal Infirmary's Maternity Assessment Centre (MAC), which provides emergency and follow-up care for women who are more than 16 weeks pregnant is now open around the clock. It was previously open from 10am to 10pm, meaning any patient with specific pregnancy-related problems outside this time had to be cared for and managed on the labour ward. Now women can receive round-the-clock care on the unit which is midwifery-led, with support from a consultant obstetrician.

[Read more](#)

Improving the environment around the hospital

As an NHS organisation, Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has a duty to protect and care for the health and wellbeing of all patients, staff and visitors.

That's why all of the Trust's premises and sites are now completely smoke free.

This means that as well as inside the hospitals (Bradford Royal Infirmary, St Luke's Hospital and the community hospitals), patients, visitors and staff are not permitted to smoke on any of the grounds, in the gardens, all Trust buildings and vehicles.

The use of e-cigarettes or 'vaping' is also currently not permitted. Work to remove the smoking shelters is now underway.

Why has the Trust done this?

Many of the people who access its services are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, such as pregnant women, babies, children and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

The Trust's mission is to promote healthy behaviours and one way of doing this is to minimise the risk of harm to others from passive smoking.

This new policy is in line with The Health Act (2006) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance on smoking in secondary care services (2013).

What does this mean for me?

The Trust recognises that smoking is personal choice and does not discriminate against those who choose to do so. However the Trust asks that you help keep its buildings and grounds smoke free to protect others.

If anyone is seen smoking on Trust premises, staff have the right to respectfully request for them to stop and extinguish their cigarette.

If you are having a planned admission, the best thing you can do is contact your local stop smoking service – [find out more here](#). You can also ask your GP to prescribe Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) to use during your hospital stay. This will mean that you won't crave for cigarettes during your stay and you can start using the product before you arrive if you wish.

If you have an unplanned or emergency admission, you can ask any nurse or doctor about a prescription for NRT to help with your nicotine withdrawal symptoms. Read these [10 self-help tips](#) to stop smoking.

Smoking is the main cause of preventable illness and premature death in England. It causes a wide range of diseases and medical conditions, including cancers, respiratory diseases, coronary heart disease, impotence and infertility.

Thank you for not smoking in and around Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Direct acting anti-viral treatment for Hepatitis C patients now available

The Viral Hepatitis Service in Bradford Teaching Hospitals is pleased to announce we now have the new oral direct acting anti-viral (DAA) regimes to treat Hepatitis C (HCV). These new regimes are highly effective with excellent cure rates, are in tablet form that only need to be taken for between 8 and 16 weeks, cause minimum side effects and are centrally funded. Public Health England (PHE) has launched a national re-engagement exercise and we have identified the patients that may need treating in Bradford Hospitals. As such, we will shortly be sending letters to GPs requesting referrals as per the PHE guidelines.

In 2016 NHS England signed the World Health Organisation's Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis C to reduce the incidence of chronic HCV by 80% by 2030 at the latest. Untreated HCV causes cirrhosis and liver cancer and NHS England estimate that 0.5% of the population has the virus and most GP practice will have at least one patient infected. You would also help by screening at risk patients when they visit your surgery by requesting a RNA PCR blood test and referring any positive patients. Please access the PHE Hepatitis C report 2018 for further information.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals seeks applications for Board of Director roles

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS FT is currently seeking applications for the positions of Chair and Non-Executive Director (two posts) on our Board of Directors. We are a strong and successful Foundation Trust with a renowned reputation for research and innovation, but like every part of the NHS we face significant financial and operational challenges, so our new Chair and Non-Executive Directors will be crucial in taking the Trust forward.

[Read more](#)