

GP Bulletin – February 2020

Trust's highly-rated maternity services praised by national survey

Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI) has been praised for its maternity services in a national survey. The dedication and hard work of the hospital's maternity unit, part of Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been recognised in the findings of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Maternity Services Survey 2019.

[Read more...](#)

Trinity@St Lukes HIV service

The Trinity @ St Lukes clinic provides treatment and care to over 400 people living with HIV. The medical team includes consultants in Genitourinary Medicine (Dr Nicola Fearnley and Dr Sophie Brady) and we have recently welcomed Dr Jorge Abarca-Guevara (consultant in Infectious Diseases) and Dr Joanna Glascodine (consultant in Acute Medicine & HIV) to the department. We also have an experienced team of 3 HIV nurses and have specialist input from pharmacy and psychology services.

Referrals and clinical enquires can be made from primary care direct to the clinic by telephone on 01274 365088 or by secure email bth.hivclinic@nhs.net.

We aim to see all patients with a new diagnosis within 2 weeks. Although a confirmatory test is usually recommended by the laboratory, prompt referral following an initial positive / reactive test is still advised.

Patients who have previously accessed HIV care at another clinic and who wish to transfer to our service can also self-refer.

Follow us on Twitter @BTHFTHIVservice

BTHFT to axe fax machines in line with national plan

Rt. Hon Matt Hancock (Health and Social Care Secretary) has introduced a ban on the NHS from buying fax machines, and has ordered a complete phase-out by April 2020. The ban on buying fax machines took effect from January 2019. They will be phased out by 31 March 2020. NHS organisations will be monitored on a quarterly basis until they declare themselves 'fax free'.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust started the journey in March 2019 to remove all fax machines from its sites. Our Informatics team identified at least 111 faxes across Bradford Royal Infirmary and St Luke's Hospital which will require decommissioning.

We have been working closely with primary care, the CCGs, Airedale NHS Foundation Trust and Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust to make sure we all use alternatives to the fax and modernise our local NHS communications.

Please note that referrals to Adult & Paediatric Audiology cannot be faxed after 21st March 2020. They can be sent via ERS, emailed to bth.audiology@nhs.net or sent by post.

To find out more about what "Axe the Fax" means for you and your teams, please email: Axethefax@bthft.nhs.uk.

Closer collaboration with Airedale colleagues

As you may know, the Acute Provider Collaboration (APC) between our Trust and Airedale NHS Foundation Trust has been running for 10 months. Collaboration between our trusts is something that we are using to improve services across Bradford & Airedale for the whole population, in line with the NHS Long Term Plan, and we have seen a real collaborative culture emerging.

Our Strategic Collaboration Board – made up of executives from each of our organisations – took the opportunity last month to review our approach and plan.

The progress to date has been encouraging with staff from both trusts exploring the opportunities and benefits of working in collaboration. In listening to the clinical teams and other colleagues in each of the various specialties we are working with, it has become very clear that each specialty has its own specific requirements, challenges and opportunities, making this a complex process.

Each specialty needs a bespoke approach which is informed by our clinical, operational and support teams led by our collaboration programme clinical leads. Experience shows us that we will be more likely to achieve truly transformative single service models if we concentrate our resource for now in fewer specialties – so we have prioritised to work with the following services over the next 12 months:

- Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Paediatrics, Maternity and Gynaecology
- Stroke
- Respiratory
- Orthopaedics
- Urology
- Anaesthetics and Theatres

We are confident that this is the best way to ensure the collaboration process is successful and that we focus on those specialties with the greatest opportunity for change at this time.

We look forward to updating you in future issues of the bulletin.