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Introduction by Lindsey Barker Medical Director



Introduction by Lindsey Barker Medical Director

Welcome to the August/September edition of GP Round Up.

This month we are sending GP Round Up directly to GPs and practice managers in your surgery. We are acutely aware of the time pressures in primary care, and of the volume of online correspondence that colleagues have to deal with. With this in mind we are trialing a slightly different format so that you can more easily select the articles most relevant to you. We hope that you find the information and updates useful.

This month articles are grouped under the following headings:

- [Trust headline news](#)
- [Clinical guidelines and referral advice](#)
- [Welcoming new consultants](#)

Trust headlines

Elective orthopaedic unit has wow factor!

While the emergency side of the hospital is increasingly busy, we continue to develop our bespoke elective facilities. We recognise that patients have an increasing choice of places to have routine surgery performed and we hope that they will choose RBFT whenever possible. Here is some information about our new state of the art orthopaedic ward and theatres offering high quality, complex surgery with the full back up services of an acute hospital.



Redlands Elective Orthopaedic unit is comprised of four operating theatres, a six-bedded recovery ward and a 30-bed elective orthopaedic ward with seven four-bedded bays and two single rooms with en suite bathrooms. Patients can also use our amenities room which can be booked on the day of surgery.

The self-contained unit means patients are no longer taken through other areas of the hospital between surgery and their recovery, dramatically reducing the risk of infection. The state-of-the-art theatres have windows offering natural light, a feature rarely found in other theatres across the country.

Around 2,800 operations and procedures a year will be carried out in the unit - mainly hip and knee replacements, hip arthroscopies, spinal surgery and shoulder surgery.

Tom Pollard consultant orthopaedic surgeon, says: ***"It is fantastic to have this ring fenced facility that most other hospitals don't have. It will definitely translate to improved patient outcomes. RBFT is a great hospital to work in and it is***

brilliant we have got this extra facility to enable us to do the best for patients."

The fact the unit is self-contained is a crucial feature to its success. ***"Infection is a real big job, if there is an infection you often end up taking out the implant," explained Mr Pollard. "That means more surgery so it is critically important to minimise infection rate. The best way of doing that is by separating elective orthopaedic surgery from other areas of the hospital."***

We aim to use this state of the art facility to maximise a 'one stop' service for arthroplasty and are seeking GP engagement with this project. If you are interest to join us on this exciting journey, please email Nick Prentice, Directorate Manager for T&O at nick.prentice@royalberkshire.nhs.uk or Lead Clinician Andrew at Andrew.McAndrew@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Information on waiting times for orthopaedics can be found in the following section.

New trust chairman Graham Sims started on 24 August

I am delighted to let you know that Graham Sims began his role as Trust chairman on 24 August. Graham replaces acting chair Janet Rutherford and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in global corporate finance, operations, HR and leadership. He has

previously held positions as Chairman, executive and non-executive Director within corporate businesses including for example BP, Compass and Little Chef. Graham has also sat on a number of charity boards and committees.

RBFT ranked in top 100 NHS places to work

The trust was thrilled to be recognised as one of the top 100 NHS places to work by the Health Service Journal and Nursing Times, in association with NHS Employers. Data from the NHS staff survey was used to publish the list in July which includes acute trusts, community trusts, and mental health trusts across England. On top of this success, Consultant in Elderly Care, Professor David Oliver, has been recognised in the HSJ top

100 Clinical Leaders list. As well as working at RBFT, Professor Oliver is the President of the British Geriatrics Society and was recognised for his national work to improve care for older people. Patient Partner Carol Munt was also recognised in the HSJ top 50 Patient Leaders list. Patient Partners work with trusts to give a patient's perspective on how care can be improved.

RBFT cancer services internationally-recognised

CHKS (a healthcare intelligence service) have accredited the Berkshire Cancer Centre for achieving internationally-recognised best practice, legislation and regulatory requirements. We are now one of the few

providers of cancer services in the UK to hold full accreditation for all services and we are proud to have done this continually since 2002.

Major incident planning and recent power outage feedback

Thank you all for your patience and for bearing with us when we declared a major incident on Friday 1 August following two separate incidents on the Royal Berkshire Hospital site.

for 3 days. We are pleased to say that on Thursday 6 August, after careful planning and preparation, we were able to safely return to mains power.

The first was a burst pipe that caused a power outage in parts of North Block and Battle Block; the second was a small fire that broke out in a cabinet in the Coronary Care Unit.

If you or any of your patients (or their relatives) were affected by the incident, Sheila Ladds Emergency Planning & Resilience Manager would like to hear about your experience. Please email your comments to Sheila.Ladds@royalberkshire.nhs.uk. Your feedback will help our review of the incident and future planning.

To help us to provide the best care possible for our existing patients and because we were unable to use some wards affected by the incident, we reluctantly made the decision to divert non-life threatening cases from our A&E

Clinical guidelines & referral advice

Shorter waits for orthopaedic appointments

Throughout October and November we will be maximising our capacity and providing additional outpatient clinics in orthopaedics. We are keen to receive referrals and work with our GP's to ensure that the services we provide meet the needs of our local community.



	First available RBH	First available Bracknell	First available WBCH	First available Townlands	Average wait
Hip and Knee	9 days	44 days	15 days	30 days	3.3 weeks
Shoulder Service	20 days	38 days	N/A	55 days	3.5 weeks
Foot and Ankle	18 days	33 days	15 days	22 days	2.2 weeks
Hand Service	29 days	N/A	55 days	17 days	3.8 weeks
Spinal Service	13 days	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.3 weeks

We are also planning to create additional capacity at our WBCH and Bracknell sites.

Testing for chickenpox immunity

When you request a pathology test for varicella-zoster virus immunity in pregnancy, we are usually able to use previous blood samples taken at antenatal booking. This means that it is not usually necessary for the woman to have blood taken again.

Reminder: In recent weeks, several women have attended the RBFT pathology clinic accompanied by their child who is still infectious from chickenpox. This presents a significant risk to other patients, especially those with reduced immunity.

Please help us to minimise the risk of cross infection. If your patient does need to attend RBFT, please remind them that they should not bring any children with infectious illnesses along with them.

Antibiotics recommended for pregnant women

RBFT obstetric and microbiology consultants have produced a guideline for GPs to assist with prescribing for common conditions in pregnancy. You can download a copy as a *separate attachment*.

Additional *maternity clinical guidelines* and *maternity patient information leaflets* are also available on the trust website.

Gastrointestinal e-Referrals - choosing the correct speciality

Unfortunately some practices have been incorrectly referring *Gastroenterology* patients to *General surgery* clinics when using the e-Referrals service.

The following two examples should be directed to *Gastroenterology*:

- *-non-specific abdominal pain*
- *endoscopy requests*

We appreciate that it is slightly confusing that the e-Referral service list *General Surgery & Gastroenterology* are under the same speciality - GI and Liver (Medicine and Surgery). Please help us to ensure that your patient is referred to the correct clinic by checking the speciality you select on e-Referral to avoid delaying the appointment.

Let us know if your patient needs an interpreter

Please help us to avoid wasting patient time and appointment slots by indicating on patient referral letters that an interpreter will be needed for their appointment. Please note that it is Trust policy that patients cannot bring family members to translate for them.

Welcoming new consultants

Since January 15 we have welcomed several new consultants to the trust.

This month I am pleased to introduce *Dr Kieran Hogarth Radiologist* who has a special interest in neuro imaging, *Dr Hanan El-Mahallawi Histo/Cytopathologist* who is also the department lead for skin pathology and *Mr Kumaran Thiruppathy Colo-Rectal Surgical Consultant* who has a special interest in pelvic floor surgery.

Dr Kieran Hogarth Radiologist



Kieran joined the trust in May as a General Radiologist with a subspecialty interest in Neuro-imaging.

He graduated from King's College London with intercalated BSc in 'Radiological Sciences' (First Class) in 2003 and then went on to do his general radiology training at St Bart's & The Royal London Hospitals from 2005-2009. Kieran then undertook the London Deanery Neuroradiology Fellowship programme at King's College Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery between 2009 and 2011. Prior to this post he was a Consultant Neuroradiologist at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Dr Hanan El-Mahallawi Histo/Cytopathologist



Hanan is our lead for skin pathology and has a special interest in uropathology having been one of the pioneering pathologists who

worked in the PROMISE trial with University College London.

She also has a special interest in gynae and GIT pathology including pseudomyxoma pathology, being one of only a few consultants in the country who has expertise in this field. Hanan has joined us from the North Hampshire hospital. She previously trained at St Thomas, Portsmouth and Southampton Hospitals.

Mr Kumaran Thiruppathy Colo-rectal surgical consultant



We are pleased to welcome Mr Kumaran Thiruppathy to the trust. Kumaran has taken up a substantive post as a Colo-rectal surgical consultant.

He trained in the North-East Thames Deanery, the Royal Free Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide, and has a particular interest in pelvic floor work. He will be taking a full part in the emergency surgery on-call rota.

GP pages on Trust website

The Trust website <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/> has a new layout and resources for GPs are all in one place under the blue “GP” tab <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gps.htm> at the top of the main page. The following links may be found in the GP section:

- Directory of outpatient services <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/directory-of-services.htm>
- GP secure online resources <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gp-secure-online-resources.htm>
- Clinical and referral guidelines <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gp-referral-information.htm>
- Consultant directory <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/consultant-directory.htm>
- GP Newsletter <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gp-newsletter.htm>
- Choose & Book <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/choose-and-book.htm>
- Continuing professional development for GPs <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/continuing-professional-development.htm>
- Patient information leaflets <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets/>
- Infection control information <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/infection-control-information.htm>
- How to raise a query or concern <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/how-to-raise-a-query-or-concern.htm>

How to Raise a Query or Concern

We welcome feedback from GPs and Practice Managers, so please let us know if you experience any problems with our services by sending a secure email to gpliaison.rbft@nhs.net. Alternatively you can telephone Caroline Hillman GP Liaison Manager on 0118 322 5313. We will acknowledge your concern within 3 working days.

If a GP wishes to raise a formal complaint, this should be made in writing (by letter or email) to Lindsey Barker Medical Director. Alternatively, if the complaint is of a sensitive nature, the GP may prefer to telephone or speak to Lindsey in person.

Our Patient Advice and Liaison Team (PALS) focus on providing support and on the spot help to patients, relatives and carers and can be contacted via talktous@royalberkshire.nhs.uk The PALS Team also investigate serious patient complaints.