

## Contents

Introduction by Lindsey Barker Acting Medical Director.....	1
RBH Orthopaedic Open Evening 7 April .....	2
New Early Arthritis Clinic.....	3
Plans for a Community Pain Assessment & Spinal Service.....	3
Virtual Fracture Clinic coming soon.....	3
Transfusion Samples: Guidance for GP Surgeries .....	3
Ward & Clinic Moves.....	4
Maternity Improvements Programme progresses.....	4
GP pages on Trust website .....	5
How to Raise a Query or Concern.....	5

## Introduction by Lindsey Barker Acting Medical Director

Welcome to the February edition of GP Round Up.

This month I would like to invite you to an Orthopaedic Open Evening on 7<sup>th</sup> April to see our new Redlands Orthopaedic Centre. We have made many improvements to our orthopaedic department and now provide excellent facilities for treating trauma patients and those having elective orthopaedic surgery. During the evening there will be a presentation and opportunity to ask questions and meet the team.



I am also pleased to update you on our Obstetric & Maternity Improvement Programme, recent ward reconfigurations and new clinics for fracture, early arthritis, spinal and pain conditions.

*This GP Round Up email newsletter is sent out to Practice Managers in the local area - please can you forward it on to the GPs in your surgery.*

## RBH Orthopaedic Open Evening 7 April

We would like to invite all GPs to an open evening to see the new Redlands Orthopaedic Centre at the Royal Berkshire Hospital on

**Tuesday 7 April**

**7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

### Programme

<b>Coffee</b>	<b>19.00</b>
<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks – Jean O’Callaghan, Trust CEO</b>	<b>19.15</b>
<b>Redlands Centre – Presentation by Peter Malone, Care Group Director</b>	<b>19.20</b>
<b>Q &amp; A session</b>	<b>19.40</b>
<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>19.50</b>
<b>Depart for Guided Tour</b>	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Final Comments – Peter Malone</b>	<b>20.45</b>

If you have any queries please contact Tim Seymour Directorate Manager for Theatres by email to: [Tim.Seymour@royalberkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:Tim.Seymour@royalberkshire.nhs.uk) or telephone 07733 224 273

### Directions

*Park in the main car park in the staff area on **level 5** (pick up a ticket at the barrier and we’ll validate it for you to get out again).*

*Walk down the few steps to the level 4 offices where we’ll be waiting for you and will escort you from there.*

*If you come on foot or by public transport then catch the lift at the main entrance to level 4 offices.*

## New Early Arthritis Clinic

Rheumatology has a new Early Inflammatory Arthritis (EIA) Clinic with ultrasound scanning of joints, in line with the Best Practice Tariff for EIA.

A new care pathway is now in place for the management of EIA by the multidisciplinary team to allow early diagnosis and treatment for patients. Dr. Chan (Consultant Rheumatologist) and his team are looking to raise funds to buy a new ultrasound scanner and will be running the Reading Half Marathon this year.

## Plans for a Community Pain Assessment & Spinal Service

A new community pain service called the *Integrated Pain Assessment & Spinal Service* (IPASS) is planned for 1st September 2015. We are currently working with CCG and BHFT colleagues to develop this new service for patients with chronic pain and expect that it will improve access to the multidisciplinary team and improve patient experience.

## Virtual Fracture Clinic coming soon

Although the majority of fracture patients come to the Emergency Department for treatment, we are aware that some patients visit their GP to discuss an injury, for example following a holiday. We are pleased therefore to let you know about the launch of a new pathway for fracture patients - the Virtual Fracture Clinic which **will commence on 23rd March 2015.**

GPs will be able to refer patients by email fax or by telephoning the Patient Liaison Nurse:

- [rbft.virtualfractureclinic@nhs.net](mailto:rbft.virtualfractureclinic@nhs.net)
- 0118 322 8121 (fax)
- 07554 330 369 (phone)

The service will be operational from Monday through Friday and overseen by a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at all times.

Further information about this new service can be downloaded as a *separate attachment*.

## Transfusion Samples: Guidance for GP Surgeries

Guidance for GP surgeries on the correct sample bottles to use and patient information required when sending a blood sample for cross-matching may be downloaded as a separate attachment. If you have any further questions please telephone the transfusion laboratory on 0118 322 7697.

## Ward & clinic moves

Ward	Clinic
<p>The <b>Acute Stroke Unit</b> (Stroke speciality – 28beds) has moved to the ground floor of the Battle Block (previous Caversham Ward location), the TIA clinic is to be run out of the clinic room in this area.</p>	<p>The <b>TIA</b> clinics are now held on the ground floor of the Battle Block.</p>
<p><b>Woodley Ward</b> (Hip fragility unit – 28 beds) is located on Level 3 of the Battle Block (previous ASU location).</p>	<p>The <b>RACOP</b> clinics (elderly care clinic, stroke clinic, falls clinic, Parkinson’s clinic) are now being held in the Therapies department, located on the ground floor of the Battle Block.</p>
<p><b>Caversham Ward</b> (Neuro-rehabilitation – 12 beds) is located on Level 3 of the Battle Block (previous Woodley Ward location).</p>	<p>The <b>Podiatry</b> clinics are now also being held in the Therapies department, located on the ground floor of the Battle Block.”</p>
<p><b>Redlands Ward</b> is a ring fenced orthopaedic elective ward attached to 2 new theatres</p>	
<p><b>Hunter and Lister</b> have become a 51 bedded trauma ward.</p>	

## Maternity Improvements Programme progresses

*Jill Ablett Consultant Obstetrician writes:*

"Following the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) review of maternity services in 2014, our Maternity Improvement Programme is well underway and I would like to share with you the positive changes that are occurring."

*Jill continues:*"Recently a multidisciplinary team of midwives, doctors of all grades and care assistants has started a Delivery Suite forum with weekly meetings to share ideas, suggest changes and try to improve women's care

As part of the improvement programme, there has been an expansion of Obstetric consultants to 9, which will now provide 91 hours of consultant presence on delivery suite per week (13 hours per day for 7 days per week)

The VBAC (vaginal birth after caesarean) project is well underway and the results are currently being audited. Our unit, together with others in the Thames Valley have collaborated in producing a letter for all GPs and community midwives and women at booking which states that we do not perform Caesarean sections for maternal request without a medical reason and that having had one previous LSCS is not an indication for requiring a further LSCS. Attitudes about VBAC are changing within the unit and many women are now being seen in the Midwifery led VBAC clinic led by Christine Harding and Emma Maycock. Emma is now also running antenatal classes for women planning VBAC to support them with their delivery and birth plans and the results seem to be very positive.

Finally, please can you be aware that there will be some noise and disruption in the delivery suite until April as we are currently having a new ventilation system installed. This will significantly improve the environment for women and staff."

## 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 query form <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gp-query-form.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

We welcome feedback from GPs and Practice Managers, so please let us know if you experience any problems with our services. You can get in touch via email to [gphelp@royalberkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:gphelp@royalberkshire.nhs.uk) or by using our simple web form that can be found on the Trust website: <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/gp-query-form.htm>. Alternatively you can email our GP Liaison Manager: [caroline.hillman@royalberkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:caroline.hillman@royalberkshire.nhs.uk). or telephone 0118 322 5313.

If you wish to send us patient identifiable information with your concern please email to: [gpliaison.rbft@nhs.net](mailto:gpliaison.rbft@nhs.net).

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](mailto:talktous@royalberkshire.nhs.uk) The PALS Team also investigate serious patient complaints.