

Newark Hospital Update - Newark Urgent Treatment Centre

The “Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View (5YFV)” was published on 31 March 2017. This plan explains how the 5YFV’s goals will be implemented over the next two years. Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) is one of the NHS’ main national service improvement priorities, with a focus on improving national A&E performance whilst making access to services clearer for patients.

One element of the UEC section of the FYFV is “Roll-out of standardised new ‘Urgent Treatment Centres’”. This aims to simplify and clarify for the public how to access the right care at the right time. It is recognised that the public found the mix of walk-in centres, minor injuries units and urgent care centres, in addition to numerous GP health centres and surgeries offering varied levels of core and extended service hard to navigate. Within and between these services, there is a lot of variation in opening times, in the types of staff present and what diagnostics may be available.

In July 2017 NHS England set out a core set of standards for urgent treatment centres (UTC) to establish as much commonality as possible by December 2019, where patients and the public will:

- Be able to access urgent treatment centres that are open at least 12 hours a day, GP-led, staffed by GPs, nurses and other clinicians, with access to simple diagnostics, e.g. urinalysis, ECG and in some cases X-ray
- Have a consistent route to access urgent appointments offered within 4hrs and booked through NHS 111, ambulance services and general practice. A walk-in access option will also be retained
- Increasingly be able to access routine and same-day appointments, and out-of-hours general practice, for both urgent and routine appointments, at the same facility, where geographically appropriate
- Know that the urgent treatment centre is part of locally integrated urgent and emergency care services working in conjunction with the ambulance service, NHS111, local GPs, hospital A&E services and other local providers

At Newark, we are proposing to go further and quicker than the NHSE standards. We propose that the Newark Urgent Care Centre will become an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) which complies with the national standards from early 2018. The Newark UTC will be open 24 hours a day, staffed by a mix of GPs and other clinicians between 8am and midnight with a GP led service available between midnight and 8am via NHS 111, providing a more consistent presence at Newark.

The Vision and Strategic Direction seeks for Newark Hospital to be a centre of excellence for a broad range of diagnostics and provide an urgent care service, have rapid assessments and diagnosis through the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) and have GPs working alongside clinicians in the UCC during evenings, holidays and weekends. Commissioners are currently working closely with local General Practitioners and current urgent care providers (particularly Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts and NEMS) to develop a model, agree, and plan to mobilise the service in early 2018 to the population of Newark, that directly matches the agreed Vision and Strategic Direction for Newark.