

Important information for patients with Congenital Heart Disease

What will happen if I need an operation?

CMFT is continuing to run multi-disciplinary team meeting with support from the specialist teams from Leeds and Newcastle. If, following discussion at these meetings, it is decided that you require a complex cardiac procedure, this will most likely be undertaken at the specialist centre in Leeds or Newcastle.

If this happens, you will be contacted by the teams at CMFT and Leeds or Newcastle to ensure the practical arrangements are co-ordinated and communicated efficiently.

What will happen to patients who require emergency care?

Robust emergency arrangements have been put in place with the support of the teams in Leeds and Newcastle. Most emergency hospital care will continue to be provided at local hospitals and at CMFT, and, if it is necessary, a referral and transfer will be made to Leeds or Newcastle. An on call team in Leeds and Newcastle is available at all times to provide advice and support.

I have a future appointment but I haven't been contacted about it. Will this still go ahead?

If you have a planned appointment anywhere in the North West (or at another hospital outside the North West), please attend unless you are contacted directly and advised otherwise. Patients are reviewed on a continual basis so that they can be seen urgently where necessary.

I have chosen to have my treatment in Leeds/Newcastle. Can I get any support with travel arrangements?

Reasonable financial reimbursement will be offered on an individual basis. Travel information packs will be sent to patients due to have treatment at these specialist centres. These packs provide advice on travel arrangements, parking, and accommodation.

The congenital team at CMFT know me and understand my needs. I'm concerned about going to another centre.

The arrangements we have in place with Leeds and Newcastle will ensure continuity of care for all patients transferring there for treatment. The doctors and nurses at these specialist centres will have access to your hospital records. The specialist nurses at CMFT continue to be available to provide support on an on-going basis.

We have ensured that all local hospitals as well as GPs are aware of the current arrangements. The clinical team at CMFT will continue to provide support and advice to local hospitals and clinicians.

My child is due to transfer to the adult service in the next year - what will happen to them?

Any patient due to transfer to the adult service will be considered individually. To minimise disruption and anxiety, this may mean that a patient remains temporarily under the care of the current clinician. If a transfer to the adult service is required imminently, we will work with respective adult providers to ensure a smooth transfer of care.

Is CMFT planning to fill any of the vacant posts?

We have reached an agreement with NHS England to replace our current vacancies:

- 1 consultant surgeon
- 2 cardiologists
- 1 ACHD specialist nurse

In addition we are looking to supplement the ACHD team with a full time specialist nurse secondment and support from other senior nurses across the organisation.

How long will these arrangements be in place for?

These arrangements are temporary until a decision is taken on the new service model for the North West following the national consultation which closed on 17th July. It will then be some time before the new service model is fully functional.

Will there be any further updates?

We will update you on any developments regarding the ACHD service in Manchester. All updates will be available on the CMFT website at www.cmft.nhs.uk and sent to other providers for their patients. They will also be published on social media and associated patient forums with continued support from your patient representatives.

Will there be any future meetings for patients to attend?

We held a patient event at CMFT on 1st July which proved beneficial for all who attended. We intend to run similar events in Blackpool, North Wales and Liverpool in the next couple of months. The details of these will be made available once confirmed.

What if I have any concerns about my care?

As always, if you have any concerns about your care or wish to speak to one of our specialist nurses, please contact them on 0161 276 7959.

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