

November 29 2018

Briefing re: Minor Injuries Units

Wye Valley Trust has two Minor Injury Units (MIU's) located at Ross on Wye Community Hospital and Leominster Community Hospital. The MIUs are open Monday to Friday 08.00 – 18.00 hours and closed on weekends and bank holiday. The Units are staffed by Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENP).

The closure will be from Monday 3rd December to Friday 26th April 2019.

Why was this decision taken?

It was proposed by Wye Valley NHS Trust that the staffing from the two minor injuries units will be centralised to support Hereford Accident and Emergency Department over the winter period 2018/19. This will contribute towards the provision of safe services to seriously ill patients needing urgent care at Hereford County Hospital. Built to see around 125 patients a day, the County Hospital now regularly sees more than 180 a day in its A&E department, and has recently had days with more than 200 people attending.

The Trust's main concern is the safety of patients with acute and emergency conditions ensuring that they are assessed, diagnosed and treated rapidly. This year the decision to temporarily close the MIUs has been made as part of a planned strategy to manage winter pressures. The MIU staff will be redeployed in the county's Accident and Emergency Department. The temporary closure runs until the end of April 2019, as the implications of winter time are known to continue until this period.

What will be the impact on local communities?

The population most affected by this closure will be Leominster and surrounding area (11,700) and Ross on Wye and surrounding area (10,700). Information from Wye Valley NHS Trust indicates that the impact of the closures will be low. The daily average for Ross on Wye is 8 patients seen in a day and Leominster is 6.6 patients seen in a day. This equates to 0.76 new patients per hour.

The closure might be an inconvenience to people however local GP and pharmacy services are available in the local community. In the first instance, calling NHS 111 will avoid unnecessary travel.

All other services at Ross and Leominster community hospitals will continue as normal and are not affected by this temporary closure.

What will help patients to go to the right place?

Posters will be up at Leominster and Ross Community hospitals directing patients to call NHS 111, local GP or the local pharmacy. Press releases have been issued to local newspapers and radio as well as NHS websites and social media.

Advice on where to go will be issued during the winter period such as Help Us Help You messages, alternatives for medical needs, and pharmacy opening times.

For further information please contact: John Burnett, Communication and Engagement Manager, Wye Valley NHS Trust: 01432 372928 or Kerry Thomson, Senior Communication and Engagement Manager, Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group 01432 260618.