

Second MRI scanner set to offer faster imaging and reduced waiting times



Siemens Magnetom Verio 3T MRI system

We are taking delivery of a second MRI scanner at Russells Hall Hospital to offer patients faster quality imaging, more accurate diagnoses and shorter waiting times.

The installation of the Verio 3T MRI scanner will increase capacity to enable us to reduce turnaround times.

Image quality will improve due to the increased inherent signal to noise ratio (SNR) of the new scanner. The wider bore of the new scanner offers 33 per cent more space around the patient,

which will reduce the claustrophobic feeling some patients experience.

“Faster imaging on the new scanner will allow certain ‘routine’ scans to be performed in a shorter time interval,” says Tim Wicker, Superintendent Radiographer.

“This will allow more patients to be scanned and further reduce waiting lists.”

We are already

operating a successful service for our local GPs. Our consultant radiologists and dedicated MR radiographers are highly experienced in MRI and the installation of the second scanner will enhance the service we offer our patients.

“At DGoH, we provide a global service for GPs,” adds Tim. “If a patient is referred for a specific clinical problem, we offer a range of modalities to provide the most appropriate examination, including MR, CT, Nuclear Medicine (including Pet CT) and ultrasound.

The new scanner will mean all MR examinations will be performed on-site and dealt with by experienced MR radiographic, secretarial and consultant staff.

Our developing referral and reporting pathways will allow electronic referral and access to images and reports within your GP surgery. These images and reports will also be available to DGoH clinicians at time of consult, if the patient is subsequently referred to us.

How to refer

Fax your MRI request form to (01384) 456111 ext. 2118. To phone through a referral, contact Tracey on ext. 2106.

The new scanner will be installed early in the New Year.

Stroke consultants' ward rounds invite

Our stroke consultants are inviting you to join them on their ward rounds at Russells Hall Hospital to learn more about acute strokes and help you spot the signs of stroke and TIA in high and low risk patients.

The two-hour GP sessions are to be held on Monday 24th January 2011 and Thursday 10th February 2011. The rounds will start at 9.30am and take approximately two hours.

“We hope this will be an exciting opportunity for GPs to see our consultants examine patients and take their clinical histories,” says Anne Gregory, Clinical Stroke Co-ordinator.

“They will learn all about signs and symptoms, hear about the latest pharmaceutical developments and see our stroke pathway,” she adds.

We would also be pleased to invite you to sit in on Dr Banerjee and Dr Salam's TIA clinics on a Monday and Thursday afternoon.

If you are interested in attending the ward rounds or TIA clinics, please contact Anne on (01384) 321139 or email anne.gregory@dgoh.nhs.uk

Please include your email and phone number.

Management of MRSA for planned elective admissions

Reducing healthcare associated infections among elective surgery patients avoids delays in their surgical procedure and reduces the risk of complications after their operation.

Your help is needed to treat Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in patients who are found to be positive following their screen, taken as part of our pre-assessment process.

“We need to prevent infection coming into the hospital but we also want to avoid delaying surgery for those patients tested positively for MRSA,” says Keiran Brookes, MRSA Co-ordinator in pre-op assessment at Russells Hall Hospital.

When your patient is tested positive, you will receive a fax from our Department of Microbiology with advice on the specific treatment required. Keiran will also phone your practice advising you of the fax and to request that a treatment is prescribed within 24 hours to avoid delaying surgery.

For more information, contact Keiran Brookes on (01384) 456111 ext.1657.

If you wish to discuss aspects of your patient's treatment for MRSA, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control team on (01384) 244174 between 8.30am and 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. You may leave a message outside these hours.



MRSA Co-ordinator
Keiran Brookes



The Cardiology team includes (left to right) Consultant Cardiologists Dr Peter Forsey and Dr Craig Barr, CAT Specialist Nurse Karen Smith, Consultant Cardiologist and Medical Service Head Dr Jane Flint, Consultant Cardiologist Dr Matt Banks, Cardiac Rehabilitation Specialist Nurse Angie Butler and Consultant Cardiologist Dr Joe Martins.

Our cardiology consultants offer a uniquely comprehensive service covering all sub-specialties:

Intervention – Dr Matt Banks and Dr Joe Martins
Pacing and electrophysiology, heart failure and devices – Dr Peter Forsey and Dr Craig Barr
Imaging, nuclear and cardiac rehabilitation – Dr Jane Flint

The Cardiac Assessment Team (CAT) of specialist nurses work in outreach across all acute cardiac pathways from 8.00am to 6.00pm. They offer expertise in:

- Acute coronary syndromes – Andrew Hunter
- Acute heart failure – Gill Jones
- Acute arrhythmia – Karen Smith

Risk stratification of patients with chest pain is vital. For patients who have not had a heart attack, the CAT Nurse will undertake exercise stress testing or facilitate Myocardial Perfusion Imaging or diagnostic angiography for higher risk patients. Patients diagnosed with NSTEMI receive angiography, those presenting with full STEMI being transferred immediately for primary PCI.

The lead nurses on Coronary Care Unit provide telephone support outside office hours on (01384) 244138 and you can contact the on-call consultant cardiologist or registrar 24/7 via the main switchboard on (01384) 456111.

The rehabilitation specialist nurses Angie Butler and Sue Merotra:

- Ensure appropriate information and education have been provided for discharge
- Visit post-MI and PPCI patients at home
- Ensure repatriation occurs following intervention or surgery at the Black Country Heart & Lung Centre (H&LC)
- Ensure referral to Action Heart for ongoing management and support for patients with cardiac conditions

Contact Angie or Sue on (01384) 456111 ext. 2054.

Rapid Access Chest Pain including Exercise ECG (ANP: Anne Cartwright) – if you encounter slot availability problems please fax the referral to (01384) 244583 and telephone DGoH Choose and Book team on (01384) 244164 to alert. The referral letter/proforma must be uploaded onto CAB within 24 hours.

Meet the team

Dr Jane Flint, BSc, MD, FRCP, Consultant Cardiologist, has worked for the Trust since 1988 having trained in the United Birmingham Hospitals and gained an MD in Nuclear Cardiology in 1987. She is Medical Director of Action Heart and National Clinical Advisor, Cardiac Rehabilitation to NHS Improvement. Dr Flint is a Professional Trustee of the British Heart Foundation.

Dr Peter Forsey, MB, ChB, FRCP, Consultant Cardiologist, was a junior doctor and registrar in Dudley before training with particular interest in arrhythmias, pacing and electrophysiology (EP) at University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB). He returned to Dudley as Consultant Cardiologist in 1995 taking over the Pacing Lead, and developing further expertise in EP at UHB.

Dr Craig Barr, MB, ChB, MRCP, Consultant Cardiologist, trained in Dundee and engaged in heart failure research before completing specialist training in cardiology in the Wales Deanery in Cardiff. He was appointed Consultant Cardiologist in Dudley in 2000, immediately extending our devices expertise with an active research basis, as well as supporting the community heart failure nurses.

Dr Matthew J Banks, MB ChB FRCP, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, returned to Dudley in 2003 having completed his junior training on the West Midlands Deanery programme and in Amsterdam after junior doctor experience, including research at DGoH. His practice modelled the new BCCN interventional pathways to the Black Country H&LC contributing to the Primary PCI rota for STEMI patients since 2007.

Dr Joe Martins, MBBCh, MRCP, MD, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, came to the UK in 1996 after undergraduate training in South Africa. Following basic medical training in Dudley, he gained an MD on arrhythmias and atrial fibrillation from Imperial College, London, before returning to the West Midlands as a cardiology registrar. He was appointed in 2008 and his special interest is CHD, performing elective and primary PCI at the H&LC.

The Cardiology team also includes Anne Drewnicki (Cardiac Physiology Department), Paula Slater (Invasive Cardiology Services Manager), Nicola Gordon (Pacing Services Chief Physiologist), Joy Spalding (Non-invasive Cardiac Investigations' Chief Physiologist), and the Action Heart team – Russell Tipson (Director); and Anne Welsh (Head of Clinic).

More colorectal clinics open

General Surgery has appointed a fifth colorectal surgeon and we are now able to offer more clinics at Russells Hall Hospital.

Miss Shelagh Macleod commences in post in April 2011. Until this time, her post will be covered by locum consultant Mr Chaminda Sellahewa.

Mr Sellahewa has dedicated clinics on a Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon (Colorectal Rapid Access). He will perform day case surgery on Friday mornings.

You may refer into Mr Sellahewa's clinics via Choose and Book.

One stop shop for sexual health needs

We are now offering more consultant-led GUM walk-in clinics at Russells Hall Hospital to provide a more convenient service to our patients.

The clinics, run by Lead Consultant Dr El-Dalil and Dr Shoukry, are held on the first floor in North Wing. We offer level three service for GUM and contraception as well as level one and two sexual health screening, contraception, and erectile dysfunction.

Information about our clinic times can be found on our yellow patient business cards, which you will have received. To order more copies to give to your patients, please contact Holly Smith or Caroline Eaton on ext. 3909, 3910 or 3911. Alternatively fax your request to (01384) 244826.

For specialist information or advice, please call (01384) 456111 ext. 3900

Services we offer

- Sexual health clinic offering tests for all sexually transmitted infections including Chlamydia
- Free treatment
- Contraception including emergency contraception and LARCs (long acting reversible contraception)
- Testing for HIV infection
- Specialist treatment for people with HIV/AIDS

Can you please let your patients know that GUM clinics are held at Russells Hall Hospital and not at Guest Hospital.

- PEP/PEPSE (Post Exposure Prophylaxis and Post Exposure Prophylaxis following sexual exposure to HIV) available for those who require it
- Specialist information and advice given directly over the phone for patients and GPs
- Direct referral into other areas and specialties, if needed
- Sexual health service for under 16s
- Free condoms
- Text messaging service
- Some results available same day
- Male/female doctors and nurses available
- Yellow 'business card' referral pathway
- GP referral for erectile dysfunction (GP referral only)

Please note we currently do not provide psychosexual therapy.

Clinics times

Morning clinics start at 9.10am – registration from 8.30-11.30am

Afternoon clinics start at 1.40pm (Mon, Wed and Fri) and 2.00pm (Tues and Thur) – registration from 1.15pm

Evening clinics start at 4.00pm – registration from 3.15-5.45pm (3.15-6.00pm Wed).

No appointment is necessary for walk in clinics but patients will be seen on a first come first served basis.

The Dudley Group welcomes... Mr Vijay Ganesh



Mr T Vijay Ganesh MBBS, FRCS (Ed), FRCS (Gen)

Consultant Breast and General Surgeon Vijay Ganesh joins the Trust from Solihull Hospital.

After graduating from Madurai Medical College, Madurai, India in 1989, he completed his specialty training at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey and later in the West Midlands at Good Hope Hospital, Heartlands Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Currently studying for his Masters in Medical Sciences at Keele University, Mr Ganesh started his career as a tutor in surgery at the PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Coimbatore, India.

Mr Ganesh gained his FRCS from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1995. He has a special interest in medical education and breast cancer management. Mr Ganesh gained his second, Intercollegiate, FRCS in 2008 in general and breast surgery.

In 1997, he presented a research paper on breast cancer to the Royal College of Surgeons, London for which he was awarded the British Journal of Surgery award for best research paper at the British Association of Surgical Oncology

Clinics:

Tues am, Wed pm and Thur am
(Russells Hall Hospital)

We would also like to welcome consultants Dr Rajesh Kumar, Dr Mohan Thomas and Dr Randa Elhag Abasaedd to the Emergency Assessment Unit, and Drs Peter Doyle and Bernie Garihly to the Emergency Department.

Interactive prescribing help for the anticoagulated patient

“Together we can reduce the risk to our patients”

Please help us keep our Warfarinised patients safe from fatal bleeds and stroke by informing us when you prescribe interactive medicines that could affect their INRs and potential Warfarin dose required.

“We are asking GPs to help us identify patients who could potentially become unstable due to the prescribing of an interactive medicine such as antibiotics or steroids,” says Sarah Hughes, CNS Anticoagulant team.

“If we know the patient has been prescribed an interactive medicine, we can monitor them more closely during their treatment and ensure appointments are adjusted and dose adjustments are made as required to reduce adverse incidents,” she adds.

The Trust treats 5,800 patients on Warfarin and, unfortunately, they do not all understand the potential seriousness of not informing us of medication changes.

Patients frequently attend the anticoagulant clinic with raised INRs and occasionally sub therapeutic INRs due to interactive medicines being prescribed.

“GPs can help us by faxing or emailing this information to us when a patient on Warfarin is prescribed an interactive medicine,” says Sarah. “Together we can reduce the risk to our patients.”

Please fax to (01384) 244258 or email to dgoanticoagclinic@nhs.net and include the patient's name, date of birth and address.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Sarah Hughes on (01384) 456111 ext. 2380.

Improvements to Therapy Services

Our Therapy Services team is implementing a series of improvements to speed up GP referrals for occupational and physiotherapy patients.

The Trust would like to replace postal referrals with fax and phone calls to offer patients instant access to more convenient appointments.

“There is an inevitable delay when referring patients via letter, especially if the letter goes to Corbett or Guest hospitals,” says Clare Brown, Therapy Service Head.

“We are asking each GP practice to fax referrals instead, and to include the patient’s landline and mobile phone numbers. We will then phone them and discuss the most convenient day and time for an appointment.”

Please fax referrals to (01384) 244249. We are also offering extended clinic times – clinics will now be open from 8.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday. The last Friday appointment will be 5.00pm.

Please inform your patients that we will allow them to reschedule their appointment no more than twice before they are discharged back to the referrer. They will also be discharged if they fail to attend.

Your patients may also like to know that we are improving the journey for patients who are referred from our outpatients: they will be given a referral card to take to the Therapy Department and be offered a physiotherapy assessment within half an hour of arrival or an opportunity to book their first appointment.

For more information about the service improvements, please contact Clare Brown, Therapy Service Head, on (01384) 456111 ext. 4563 or Claire Bousfield, Therapy Team Leader, on ext. 2231.



Patients can now enjoy instant access to our Therapy Services

Wheelchair service – changed criteria

The Trust’s Wheelchair Service has changed the eligibility criteria to include patients with more complex needs – but this will mean those with the most basic need are no longer eligible.

Newly eligible

Residents of nursing and residential homes eligible for self propelling or powered wheelchairs, if they can demonstrate they can use them safely and effectively to meet a mobility need.

- Power pack provision – we will now provide to clients whose carers require assistance to push the wheelchair, if they can demonstrate they can use them safely and effectively
- Power packs can only be supplied where the client and carer have no other means to access to their local community
- Children under the age of 30 months – we will now be providing special mobility seating but this will be based on a referral from a paediatric specialist from a medical, nursing or therapy background

We require medical evidence from a GP that the carer cannot push the wheelchair or it is detrimental to their condition.

Newly excluded

- Occasional use of basic wheelchairs for social need

“We want GPs’ help to meet the needs of those with more complex clinical needs by letting their patients know about the changed criteria,” says Graeme Johnston, Wheelchair Services Manager. “

“Unfortunately, we can no longer provide wheelchairs for an hour or two a week but we will signpost other agencies who loan wheelchairs such as supermarkets, shopping centres and the Red Cross.”

The changes came into force on November 2nd 2010 and a new referrals form is being developed to reflect the changes.

The form, which will ask more in-depth questions about the patient, will be available soon.

New Guide to Pathology Services

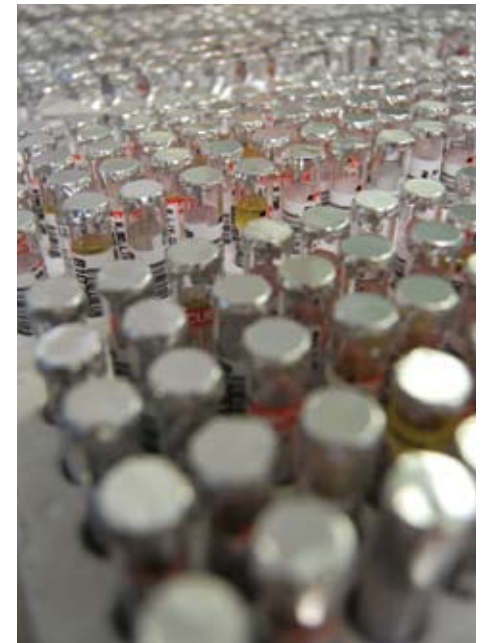
An updated guide to our Pathology services will be available soon on the new GP area of our revamped website.

‘Guide to Pathology Services’ is a user-friendly comprehensive guide on how to use our services and replaces the current ‘Pathology User Guide’.

The guide is designed to provide practical information and guidance to help you make the best use of the services we provide.

“We hope the guide will prove to be a valuable reference tool for our primary care colleagues,” says Jim Young, Quality and Service Development Manager.

“We have included more helpful links to ease navigation and updated the information to include electronic requesting.”



What’s inside the guide?

Details of all the tests we provide and how you can request a test plus a summary of each service the Trust offers, including opening times and key contacts for:

- Laboratory
- Phlebotomy
- Point of care testing
- Clinical biochemistry
- Haematology
- Histology, cytology and mortuary
- Immunology
- Microbiology

‘Guide to Pathology Services’ will be available soon on the new GP portal on our relaunched website at www.dgoh.nhs.uk