

Dear Colleague

Welcome to this edition of GP Matters,
Our hope for this newsletter is that it will allow us to share with you changes in secondary care that help us understand how each other works, and support us to work together more easily.
Please let us know using the link below, how we can make this as useful as possible for you.

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Please let us know what you
would like to see and hear
about in this newsletter

<https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159>

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Trust news

The Emergency Surgery Ambulatory Clinic (ESAC)

ESAC is a surgical 'one-stop' clinic that provides a smoother pathway for patients with surgical emergencies. It can be used for any patient with abdominal pain where you feel confident the patient is safe for assessment to be delayed until the following morning (with appropriate safety netting). Typical pathologies are biliary colic, cholecystitis, diverticulitis and appendicitis and it is also reasonable to start empirical antibiotics whilst waiting. Access to ESAC is via SPL, however queries regarding the service can be directly answered via either ESACreferrals@somersetFT.nhs.uk or 01823 342460

Suicide Prevention

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust is strengthening its focus on suicide in light of the current pandemic. Debbie Wint (principal clinical psychologist) and John Parker (consultant psychiatrist) are leading the development of an action plan across Somerset Foundation Trust with the goal of reducing suicides and self-harm. The early focus is likely to include reviewing the evidence base in relation to suicide prevention, raising awareness and delivering initiatives aimed at preventing suicide.

The suicide awareness training (link below) includes an interactive video, Suicide Let's Talk. It takes about 30 minutes and is highly recommended.

<https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/happy/bereavement-and-coronavirus-support/international-association-for-suicide-prevention-world-suicide-prevention-day/covid-19-world-suicide-prevention-day/>

We will keep you updated with further developments, but please feel free to email for more information.

Debbie.Wint@somersetFT.nhs.uk

John.Parker@somersetFT.nhs.uk

Exciting new liver service improvement project funded by NIHR

Dr Tim Jobson (gastroenterologist at SFT) and Neil Stevens have obtained funding for a 3 year project to develop a risk stratification tool to help identify patients at risk of serious liver disease from existing data accessible in practices.

There should be no additional work for primary care but could lead to earlier detection and treatment. Please click on link for information about this project.



Project funded by
NIHR.pdf

Physiotherapists at YDH and SFT

Currently some of the physiotherapists at YDH and SFT have been redeployed to assist at vaccine sites and also internally to provide input to Covid patients on the wards. Many areas are working as usual, but there are some areas where routine physio appointments have been delayed. All urgent cases are still being seen. However, we are asked to be aware that although patients should still self refer in the usual way, there may be a temporary delay in routine treatment.

Please see the useful links from SFT's physio website to which we can signpost our patients. We think this is definitely worth saving to your desktop!



Links for MSK.pdf

Paediatric Services during Covid

Our acute paediatric services at YDH and SFT are running as normal with referrals coming in from primary care through our referral bleep to the senior decision maker. We also continue to provide our Advice and Guidance service and Consultant Connect service.

Families are asked to attend with one parent or carer and are able to stay with their child during their whole admission.

Our outpatient services are open as usual and families will be offered either a face to face, video or telephone appointments depending on their clinical need or preference.

Our key message is that our emergency department, paediatric inpatient and paediatric outpatient units have been reconfigured to ensure that families are entering a friendly and COVID safe environment. We want to assure families that if their child is seriously unwell coming to hospital is safe and they will continue to receive the best possible care.



Remember MyDiabetesMyWay? This has been rebranded to MyWay Diabetes and there are 2 main things to highlight:

For HCPs – <https://someset.mydiabetes.com/healthcare-professionals/> has loads of useful info and links including stuff about diabetes and coronavirus

For people with diabetes –at present, due to COVID, there is NO face to face structured education for people with diabetes in Somerset. However, there are QISMET accredited courses on MyWay Diabetes at <https://someset.mydiabetes.com/elearning/> .

Type 2 Diabetes - Anyone referred to DESMOND is being re-directed to the “My Type 2 Diabetes: the Online Education Course” (<https://someset.mydiabetes.com/resources/internal/my-type-2-diabetes-the-online-education-course/>) but the uptake currently is poor, so we really need to get the message out there.

Type 1 Diabetes - The DAFNE team are looking at running virtual DAFNE for people with Type 1, but this is only just getting off the ground. There are specific Type 1 and Carb counting courses available via MyWay Diabetes: “Understanding Type 1 Diabetes” (<https://someset.mydiabetes.com/resources/internal/understanding-type-1-diabetes/>) and “Carbohydrate Counting: The Online Education Course” (<https://someset.mydiabetes.com/resources/internal/carbohydrate-counting-the-online-education-course/>)

Extra news

- **SWISH News for GPs.** Please click on the icon for more info about the combined hormone contraceptive and Covid and dates for fitting sessions.



SWISH News for GPs
January 2021 SC.pdf

- **2ww pathway for suspected colorectal cancers.** Please can you reassure patients that hospitals have good infection prevention measures in place if they are asked to attend hospital for an investigation. YDH have experienced problems with some patients who have been reluctant to attend for investigations after triage. Some patients have also highlighted the difficulty in accessing primary care appointments.
- **Radiology** at YDH is experiencing an increase in demand, particularly for USS in patients who have not been examined in primary care and for whom an examination would have likely altered their management. Please can we gently remind our teams that for such patients it is worth us seeing them in primary care for a face to face appointment.
- **Menopause and HRT.** We are really pleased to let you know that YDH has a specialist clinic for menopause and HRT, headed up by Mrs Nadia Soliman, for those tricky patients in whom we may require additional support. This service also includes Advice & Guidance. Also, don't forget the superb resource that is the British Menopause Society www.thebms.org.uk

