**11 July 2022**

**Temporary haematology service move from Yeovil Hospital to Musgrove Park Hospital**

From Monday 8 August 2022, haematology outpatient clinics will temporarily move from Yeovil Hospital to Musgrove Park Hospital for an initial six-month period. Routine GP referrals on ESR to Yeovil Hospital for this service will be switched off during the week commencing 18 July, following the successful migration for the patient list to the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust system. Referrals for 2 week waits to Yeovil Hospital will continue until Sunday 24 July.

The service has always been based in Musgrove Park Hospital, and approximately 220 new patients have been seen in YDH each year.

It is not anticipated that there will be any additional workload for GPs in the YDH catchment area but we do recognise the impact the travel may have on some patients. Wherever possible, we will offer patients virtual appointments to minimise their travel and we will signpost them to available support if they have concerns about accessing the service. At present, approximately half of all haematology outpatient appointments are delivered virtually.

Patients will continue to receive treatments, including chemotherapy and other supportive therapies, from the Oncology and Haematology Day Unit at St Margaret’s in Yeovil and blood transfusions will remain under the Queensway Day Unit, at Yeovil Hospital.

We are making this temporary change to ensure the safety of the service and ensure patients are seen with minimal delays. We have had to do this because of the current gaps in our medical, nursing and administrative teams, combined with the ongoing challenges of running a comparatively small service, and a growing number of patients waiting for outpatient appointments following their treatment. By temporarily consolidating haematology outpatient appointments at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, it will give us some additional capacity whilst we address the vacancies within our teams and enable our teams to see haematology outpatients in Somerset as quickly as possible.

Best wishes

**Dr Merry Kane**

**Medical Director for Acute Hospitals in Somerset**