**Summary of GP role in the Urgent Treatment Centre, Bridgwater:**

A test and learn project is being undertaken at Bridgwater Hospital, to turn the Minor Injury Unit (MIU) into an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC). The outcome of this will help direct the future of UTCs elsewhere in the county.

The implementation of UTCs in England is outlined in the following document:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/urgent-treatment-centres%E2%80%93principles-standards.pdf>

With regard to the Bridgwater UTC, it will build on the current MIU in the following ways:

1. Introduce a triage process (rather than see and treat)
2. Have a GP work alongside the ENP workforce
3. Move to X-ray facilities 7 days a week
4. Introduce Point of Care (POC) blood tests
5. Introduction of booked appointments

As a test and learn project, elements of this may change over time. For example, the hours X-ray services are present, the range of POC tests, the number of booked appointments etc. Although anyone can walk into a UTC to be seen, we are developing a series of exclusion criteria so that 111 and 999 can direct patients to the most appropriate service. The vision is to provide a service that can turnaround some patients in this environment without the need to refer on to the acute hospital and is added value to the urgent care service already provided in the area.

With regard to the GP role in the UTC, all the out of hours periods will be staffed by out of hours provider, Devon Doctors Ltd. In hours, the UTC will be staffed by GPs from 08:45 to 18:45, allowing for a brief handover period between the day and evening with Devon Doctors starting at 18:30. Some of the day shifts are being covered by GPs who also work in the Integrated Front Door (IFD) at the Emergency Department (ED) in Musgrove Park Hospital, but to maintain both services, the body of GPs needs to grow. As the IFD at MPH is an established service, the same employment process will used to staff the UTC:

1. GPs will join the staff bank at Taunton & Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
2. GPs will be covered by the hospital indemnity ie separate cover is not required
3. Hours worked contribute to the performers list (as the patients seen are an undifferentiated mix of patients with urgent care needs)
4. The rates of pay is the same as the rate Monday to Friday at Musgrove Park Hospital IFD: £50/hr

There has been a longstanding relationship between the MIUs in Somerset and the ED in MPH, providing training and clinical support. This project will build on this as we develop the concept of “one front door” across the community with close working between the UTC, MIUs and ED.

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