New Stroke Unit and GOAM moves

Important information for our patients about changes to our services this summer.
Stroke and General & Old Age Medicine services are changing!

This leaflet explains when and how care for Stroke and TIA patients will be centralised to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH). It also gives you information about how we are changing the General and Old Age Medicine (GOAM) service at GRH and at Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH).

Where are Stroke services moving to?

We will bring together the current inpatient services from both sites to GRH, using the existing stroke ward 6b, as well as a refurbished ward 8a in the Tower Block to create a combined Stroke Unit.

All Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) clinics will be run in the Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit (ARU) in the outpatients department at GRH.

GRH was chosen as the preferred site for the combined stroke unit because of the critical dependency on key specialist staff who provide clot-busting thrombolysis treatment for hyper-acute (seriously unwell) patients. These staff, who have the sufficient seniority and experience, are the same as those required by national standards to support the Trauma Unit which is also based at GRH.

When are inpatient Stroke services moving?

Our new combined Stroke Unit at GRH will be operational from Tuesday 26th June. From this date, all new Stroke patients arriving by ambulance will be taken directly to GRH.

On this day current Stroke patients on Woodmancote ward at CGH who are not ready to be discharged will be transferred to GRH. This transfer will be by ambulance and patients will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times. Patients who are likely to need transfer, and their families, will be given more detailed information when they are with us on the ward.

When are Outpatient Stroke and TIA services moving?

All our outpatient TIA clinics and follow-up appointments for Stroke patients will take place at GRH in the Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit (ARU) from Tuesday 26th June 2012. The TIA clinic will be run in the afternoons, Monday to Friday, for patients who have been seen by their GP, ambulance clinician, or hospital doctor and are suspected to have experienced a TIA. We are still aiming to set up 7 day per week TIA clinics, and will release details of the clinic times and referral pathway as soon as they have been agreed.

What is happening to General & Old Age Medicine Services?

GOAM services will remain on both sites but the distribution between the two hospitals will change.

Inpatient GOAM services have historically been weighted towards GRH. We plan to strengthen the service at CGH by increasing the number of dedicated GOAM beds and clinical staff, creating equivalent services on each site.

The redistribution will increase the number of patients from the East of the county who can be cared for in Cheltenham, and should help to improve the flow of patients admitted to CGH following an A&E attendance or GP referral.

Outpatient GOAM services will remain on both sites and in community hospitals. However, individual patients who are already under the care of a consultant whose clinics are moving may be asked to travel to an alternate site for future appointments, or be offered appointments with a different consultant.

When are GOAM services changing?

This change will be carried out in two phases. Phase one will take place on Tuesday 3rd July following the centralisation of stroke services. At this point, we will change the distribution of services, using Woodmancote ward at CGH for GOAM patients.

On this day we will transfer a number of current patients from GRH to Woodmancote ward at CGH. We will prioritise patients originally from the East of the county to transfer. This transfer will be by ambulance and patients will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times. Patients who are likely to need transfer, and their families, will be given more detailed information when they are with us.

The second phase will take place when vascular services centralise to CGH in 2013, at which point GOAM services will move to a refurbished Avening ward.
The Tower Block
Orchard car park and Therapies entrance
For TIA clinics
The Tower car park and entrance from Great Western Road
For inpatient Stroke wards
Woodmancote & Ryeworth
Kemerton
Between July 2012 and centralisation of vascular services, the GOAM wards will be:

**Gloucestershire Royal Hospital**
- Tower Ward 4b
- Tower Ward 9b

**Cheltenham General Hospital**
- Ryeworth
- Kemerton Annexe
- Woodmancote

Outpatient GOAM services will change with effect from Thursday 26th July. Individual patients affected by the changes will be contacted directly by the appointments office.

Further information on the reasons for these changes and the associated public consultation can be found at: http://www.gloshospitals.org.uk/en/About-Us/New-Developments-and-Service-Changes1/Service-location-changes-2011-12/

Or scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone.

**Useful Telephone Numbers**

**Gloucestershire Royal Hospital**
- The Stroke Unit Ward 8a ..................................................... 08454 22 6975
- The Stroke Unit Ward 6b .................................................... 08454 22 5348
- Tower Ward 4b (GOAM) ..................................................... 08454 22 5543
- Tower Ward 9b (GOAM) ...................................................... 08454 22 6142

**Cheltenham General Hospital**
- Woodmancote ward ........................................................... 08454 22 4475
- Ryeworth ward ............................................................... 08454 22 2056
- Kemerton Annexe ........................................................... 08454 22 2053

**Main Switchboard**
- GRH & CGH ........................................ 08454 22 2222
- Outpatient appointments office ........................................ 08454 22 0300