

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE HAEMOPHILIA UNIT**



**Specialist Oncology Services & Clinical Haemophilia**

**West of Scotland Beatson Cancer Centre**

**1053 Great Western Road**

**Glasgow**

**G12 0YN**

13<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Sir / Madam

**RELOCATION OF HAEMOPHILIA UNIT, GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY**

Concerns have been expressed to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde about a possible closure or re-location of the West of Scotland Haemophilia and Thrombosis Unit at Glasgow Royal infirmary. We wish to reassure all patients and their relatives that the Unit will not be closing and will remain on the GRI site. The possibility of a transfer of the Unit to another hospital was considered, but was quickly discounted due to the many services at GRI which link with the care provided to haemophilia patients and the need to have on-site services for when haemophilia patients are admitted for planned or unplanned admissions.

There are no plans to close the West of Scotland Haemophilia and Thrombosis Unit but we are planning to relocate the Unit elsewhere on the GRI site to accommodate a new discharge hub which will improve the discharge process for patients admitted to this Hospital.

The current small discharge lounge is no longer fit for purpose and the area currently occupied by the Haemophilia Unit has been identified as a suitable area for the development of a hospital discharge and flow hub, as it is directly below all of the medical wards. This new hub would be able to accommodate patients awaiting discharge/transfer to other hospitals and assist with patient flow across the hospital. The hub would also host a pharmacy dispensary to support discharge prescriptions and be used as a base for clinical coordinators,

bed management and the hospital ambulance liaison officer. Access to this area would significantly improve the flow of many patients from admission to discharge.

Accommodation within GRI is limited by the site configuration and many competing demands for space. It is recognised that the current location of the Haemophilia Unit enjoys a prime location at the Castle Street entrance to the hospital, but the demand for the development of a new discharge facility requires us to look at a new location for the Haemophilia Unit within the GRI site.

The Haemophilia Unit is primarily an ambulatory service hosted within an in-patient area of the hospital. The Unit will remain on the GRI site given the requirement for clinical links with other services. The first floor of the St Mungo building located off the link corridor behind the area occupied by Plastic Surgery has been identified for this. The area is accessible via a lift. Refurbishment plans have been agreed by the Unit which will ensure that the proposed new location is fit for purpose. The Haemophilia clinical team have been very strong patient advocates and have ensured that the proposed move is in no way detrimental to the service provided to patients. The proposed area will allow the clinical team to carry out all aspects of the current service.

A review of access has also been undertaken and it is recognised that the new location may not be considered as easily accessible as the present unit. We have received representations about perceived access difficulties with the planned new location and we are committed to work with a small patient group to remove accessibility obstacles presented by the new location.

The nearest access point to the St Mungo building is via Castle Street, or via vehicle access from Wishart Street where disabled parking is available. We have agreed that additional disabled parking will be provided in the area directly behind the St Mungo building and that these spaces will be for patients accessing services within the St Mungo building. We will work with patients to confirm the easiest access route for those using public transport.

We are sorry that information on these proposals filtered out in an unplanned way. Our intention was not to conceal these proposals. Equally we did not wish

to commence discussions until there was clarity on financial feasibility. Following a meeting with the West of Scotland Haemophilia Group we are now working on plans to ensure patient engagement and communication.

At present, we have no timescale for any move taking place, but we will through a variety of communications keep patients and staff advised of developments.

This letter has been agreed with representatives of the West of Scotland Haemophilia Group. This does not imply that they agree with the proposals.

We have been asked by the West of Scotland Haemophilia Group to advise that a meeting of patients and relatives will be held on **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 11am in the Boardroom, Ground Floor, Glasgow Royal infirmary, 84 Castle Street** (Castle Street entrance to the main hospital is the one next to the Cathedral) to which management and clinicians from the unit have been asked to attend so that patients may hear first-hand details of the rationale for the move and the detailed plans which have been drawn up.

If you wish to attend this meeting, please e-mail John Prior, Secretary of the West of Scotland Group at [prior-john2@sky.com](mailto:prior-john2@sky.com) or text him on 07876 592 087.

If you are unable to attend, we still wish to hear your views. The Haemophilia Group has offered to collate responses from patients using the contact details above.

Yours sincerely

Melanie McColgan  
Specialist Oncology Services & Clinical Haematology General Manager  
Regional Services