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Revolutionary eye treatment prevents blindness

Sufferers of a serious eye condition causing blindness are now having their sight saved by a revolutionary new treatment available at King’s Mill Hospital.

As one of the only hospitals nationwide to offer the treatment on the NHS, King’s Mill is now helping to restore the sight of patients who develop macular oedema.

Until now, no vision-saving treatment has been available to treat the condition.

Treatment is now possible using a tiny biodegradable implant soaked with a very powerful steroid, which is placed in the affected eye by a specially trained surgeon.

Once positioned in the eye, the implant very slowly releases the steroid in tiny amounts, which reduces the swelling and inflammation and dramatically improves the patient’s vision.

The procedure takes about 20 minutes and is most successful if patients are treated within the first six months of developing the condition. Occasionally patients may need a second implant after six months.

Occasional side-effects of the implant can be easily treated. None of the patients who have received the implant at King’s Mill Hospital to date have experienced any serious side effects.

Mrs Dhar-Munshi, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, said: “The new procedure has been a success for nearly all the patients I have treated so far. All have seen a reduction in swelling within the eye and experienced an improvement in their vision within a week.

“We are proud to be one of the few hospitals nationwide to offer this life-changing treatment on the NHS to people who would have previously gone blind due.

Two years MRSA free

The Trust is celebrating after achieving two years without a single case of hospital-acquired MRSA bacteraemia infection – making us one of the top performing Trusts in the East Midlands.

This success is down to the Trust’s zero tolerance approach to healthcare associated infections. The last case of MRSA bacteraemia was recorded on 18 March 2010.

Suzanne Morris, Nurse Consultant in Infection Prevention and Control, said: “Infection control is our top priority, and our stringent cleaning, hygiene and handwashing practices, together with our antibiotic prescribing policy, have resulted in our infection rates remaining some of the lowest in the United Kingdom.”

Martin Wakeley, Chief Executive, said: “Two years without a single case of hospital-acquired MRSA bacteraemia is an outstanding achievement and great news for our patients and visitors.

“However, we are not complacent and are continually looking to see what we can do further to retain this level of success.”

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mrs Dhar-Munshi
Patients attending clinics at King’s Mill and Newark hospitals have put them in the top 20% in the country for key aspects of care and treatment in a recent CQC survey.

The findings come from a survey by the Care Quality Commission of adults attending the outpatients department at King’s Mill or Newark hospitals during May 2011.

The Trust is now in the top 20% of trusts in the country in ten key areas.

Some of the highlights were:

- 97% of patients said that they had complete confidence and trust in the doctors examining and treating them
- 96% of people rated the care they received in the Trust’s outpatients department as good or excellent
- 100% said that the outpatients department was clean
- 98% said that the toilets were clean
- 82% of patients were seen within six weeks of their GP referring them to hospital
- 84% were seen within 30 minutes of their appointment time.

The East Midlands Cancer Network 23 hour Ambulatory Breast Care Project mastectomy pathway was introduced at the Trust in January 2011. The pathway aims to treat and discharge women who need surgery within 23 hours, reducing their length of stay and improving their overall patient experience.

Mr Jahan, Consultant Breast Surgeon, said: “We are committed to providing first class care for our patients, and I am delighted that this important project has proved to be such a success.

“It has allowed us to further improve the quality of care as our patients are seen, treated and discharged back to their families as soon as possible.”

Audiology waiting times are less than four weeks

The audiology department offers a comprehensive service for patients of all ages, with quality at the core of all the care pathways.

The audiology department offers a comprehensive NHS audiology service which includes lifetime aftercare, free batteries and a priority repair service for hearing aids. There are also short waiting times of less than four weeks.

The department provides seamless management of patients requiring additional services which include; ENT services, tinnitus or vestibular management.

Clinics are available for patients with complex hearing loss and learning disability. Paediatric services are also available which include routine hearing tests for all ages, specialist diagnostics, hearing aid provision and rehabilitation.

All the direct access hearing services are available on Choose and Book, as is the new direct access tinnitus service.

If you require any further information regarding audiology services, please contact the audiology management Team on extension 3036.

The Trust offers member events to all of our members. Local people will be able to find out more about thyroid and parathyroid disease at an educational event being held by the Trust.

The event takes place on Tuesday 3 July from 6-7.30pm in the Conference Centre at King’s Mill Hospital. For more information or to book a place please contact: Sarah Elphick, Membership Manager, on 01623 622515, extension 3575, or email membership.sherwoodforest@sfh-tr.nhs.uk
Exciting new role introduced

Dr Allie Klein began her exciting new role of Consultant in Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine at the beginning of April.

Dr Klein graduated from Leeds University and commenced her training in Cambridge. She then moved to the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire area around 6 years ago and worked at Derby Hospital prior to accepting her role at Sherwood Forest Hospitals.

Her new role integrates intensive care and emergency medicine and is the first of its kind in the region. The integration between the two areas allows a seamless transition for patients.

Allie says “The emergency department sees hundreds of critically ill patients in its resuscitation room every year. As an emergency physician also trained in intensive care I am able to facilitate their treatment and ongoing care in a smooth efficient way.”

Dr Klein can be contacted via email: Allison.klein@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Launch of new stroke service at King’s Mill Hospital

More patients will be able to receive gold standard stroke treatment closer to home, thanks to the launch of thrombolysis treatment at King’s Mill Hospital.

The new service operates from 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (including public holidays). Weekend and out of hours thrombolysis treatment will continue to be provided at City Hospital, Nottingham.

Dr Martin Cooper, Head of Service for Stroke said: “We are delighted that we are now able to offer this important treatment to stroke patients at King’s Mill Hospital.”

Innovative fibroid treatment introduced

Local women are now being offered a more effective and speedier treatment for uterine fibroids after the introduction of a new procedure at King’s Mill Hospital.

King’s Mill is only the second hospital in the country to trial the revolutionary new MyoSure System, which is designed to provide incision-less, fast and safe removal of intracavitary fibroids and polyps and effective relief of associated abnormal heavy menstrual bleeding symptoms.

The treatment results in shorter procedure times and has been especially created for use in an outpatient clinic.

Mr Srini Vindla, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, said: “The introduction of the MyoSure System is a huge boost to ladies suffering with this distressing condition.

“The average length of stay following the procedure is only two hours, compared with a typical post-hysterectomy hospital stay of two to three days.

“The procedure is less invasive, safe and effective and only takes approximately ten minutes to perform, allowing patients to return to normal activity the next day.

“Clinical studies show the treatment is 96.4% effective and the small number we have performed so far have proven a great success.

“After the successful trial is complete we will be introducing this as an outpatient procedure in our hysteroscopy clinic at King’s Mill.”

New TIA clinic

Patients in our emergency department who display symptoms of a TIA are now referred to the new high risk TIA clinic (within 24 hours).

Patients who have shown symptoms of a TIA are referred to the high risk TIA clinic on the stroke unit, ward 53 at King’s Mill Hospital. Other factors such as blood pressure, age and the duration of the symptoms are also taken into consideration before the patient is referred.

The high risk TIA clinic has two daily appointment slots at 10am and 11am, Monday to Friday. The patient may be seen the same day if there is an appointment available; although usually the patient is invited to attend the following day. From Friday at 12noon to Sunday at 12noon the patient will be admitted through the emergency department rather than discharged.

Since the first patient was seen last November the team has seen 50 patients, which has potentially prevented these 50 people from having a full stroke. The clinic has been positively received by patients who provide feedback on the patient questionnaire: “excellent staff, very good treatment”, “very reassuring assessment” and “very well treated and cared for.”

The high risk TIA clinic team have potentially prevented 50 people from having a full stroke

Trauma unit accreditation for hospital

King’s Mill Hospital has officially been accredited as one of the first trauma units in the region.

As part of the East Midlands Trauma Network, which comprises a number of trauma units linked to a specialist major trauma centre, the hospital will ensure patients who have suffered the most serious injuries are given access to the best medical care in the area quicker than ever before.

King’s Mill Hospital has a role in providing immediate, high-quality treatment to patients assessed as having major trauma before transferring them, if stable, to a major trauma centre for highly specialised treatment.

Patients may be transferred back to King’s Mill Hospital for ongoing care, treatment and rehabilitation once they are clinically stable.
New children and young people’s website
www.cyp.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Survey highlights excellent patient care

Patients at King’s Mill and Newark hospitals have praised the excellent care they received while staying at the hospitals in a national survey.

The findings come from the annual survey of inpatient services and facilities by the Care Quality Commission. Respondents were patients who spent at least one night at either King’s Mill or Newark hospitals in July 2011.

The Trust scored better than other trusts nationally in seven main areas, for patients:

• Noticing that nurses washed or cleaned their hands between touching patients
• Describing toilets and bathrooms as clean
• Being given enough privacy when being examined or treated
• Being given enough privacy when discussing their condition or treatment
• Having a choice of food
• Not ever being bothered by noise at night from other patients
• Letters between the hospital doctors and GP being written in a way they could understand.

Chief Executive, Martin Wakeley, said; “We are delighted that our results clearly demonstrate the commitment of all our staff to ‘putting the patient first’ and reflect our ambition to deliver world-class care.”

Have you seen it yet?
www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Have you checked out the Trust’s fantastic new-look website?

Now much clearer and less cluttered, the site has been completely redesigned to make it as easy as possible to find the information you require.

In addition to all the latest news about the Trust, four main categories of ‘patients’, ‘visitors’, ‘healthcare professionals’ and ‘get involved’ guide users to extensive sub-menus for each area.

Within the ‘patients’ section, detailed inpatient, day case and outpatient guides for both King’s Mill and Newark hospitals provide everything patients need to know about the care they can expect to receive from the Trust. There is also access to a comprehensive online library of patient information leaflets, listed alphabetically in order of specialty, covering a wide range of conditions, treatments and operations.

We are in the process of adding a ‘find a consultant’ database which will detail every consultant employed by the Trust, searchable by their name or specialty.

There is also a Healthcare professionals section which will include information about our latest developments, primary care education sessions and the GP Bulletin. Let us know what else you want.