

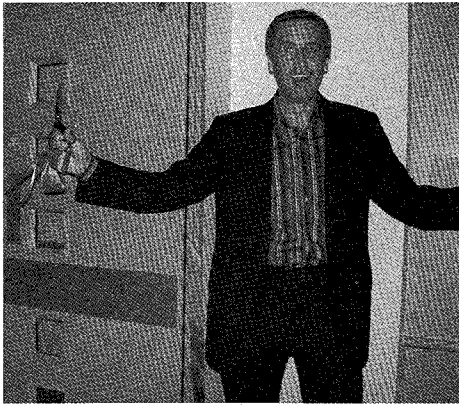
GP news



The Whittington Hospital ...the hospital of choice for local people

July/August 2008

Official opening of DTC



On Wednesday 11 June the Day Treatment Centre was officially opened. Journalist and television presenter Dermot Murnaghan

unveiled the plaque at the evening reception and said of the occasion: "I am delighted to officially open the Whittington Hospital's new Day Treatment Centre. It is a major asset to the hospital and huge benefit to the communities the hospital serves."

The Day Treatment Centre is the largest purpose-built day healthcare facility in North London. It contains four state of the art operating theatres, three endoscopy treatment rooms, a minor procedure room and an interventional imaging room. Patients will derive maximum benefit from the facility, which has an increased range of available procedures within all of the main specialities. The facility is bright and spacious and has been installed with all the latest infection control technology right down to the easy to clean computer keyboards and MRSA-proof curtains.

New services

Ferriscan

The Whittington has successfully achieved funding approval from the NHS for FerriScan. This will enable the clinicians to utilise the FerriScan MRI liver iron measurement in the routine clinical care of patients with iron overload.

The Whittington cares for the largest population of Thalassaemia patients in the United Kingdom. The haematology department has a special interest in haemoglobin disorders and has an international reputation in this field. Patients will now have access to the FerriScan test, which will supplement the other services provided in their specialist clinics.

There are over 15,000 people suffering from sickle cell disease, thalassaemia major or

myelodysplastic syndromes in the UK. Many of these patients require regular blood transfusions in the management of their disease and suffer from iron overload as a result. Patients attending the Whittington Hospital will now have access to a cost effective, non-invasive and accurate measurement of their liver iron loading enabling their clinicians to optimise the management of their treatment. This service will be available from 1 July through the imaging department. For further information, please contact Chris Giles on 020 7288 5124 or email: chris.giles@whittington.nhs.uk

Ophthalmology

From July ophthalmology day case surgery will be carried out in the Day Treatment Centre.

faxed over to the colposcopy clinic. A letter is then sent to smear taker and an appointment sent directly to the patient.

Women can change their appointment if the initial date does not suit and choose to be seen by an alternative provider. The aim of this process is to provide an immediate response and not have delays in the system.

To date the new system has reduced the waiting times for all referrals. All women can be seen within 4-5 weeks. Urgent referrals are now seen within 2-3 weeks. If there is a concern of either a glandular abnormality or cancer a woman will always be offered an appointment within two weeks.

continued on back page

Chairman of the Whittington Hospital, Joe Liddane said: "Patients who have already used the new Day Treatment Centre have already said that they would recommend the service to their family and friends. This is indicative of the general feedback we have received from both patients and staff alike during the first few months of operation. This is a really wonderful resource for local people in Islington and Haringey and is our next step in our continuing programme of improving the buildings, processes and patient experience here at the Whittington."

Patients delighted with new day treatment centre

"Extremely caring and attentive staff at all levels"

"I found the whole experience very well organised and staff very friendly"

"Staff made me feel very comfortable and confident"

These are a few patient quotes from the many positive comments received by those using the newly opened day treatment centre. Patient satisfaction surveys carried out have shown excellent results, this is extremely encouraging. Some key highlights include;

- 89 per cent of patients surveys would highly recommend the centre to a friend or colleague
- 82 per cent found the centre good or excellent in areas of cleanliness
- 88 per cent found the centre good or excellent in being welcoming and caring.

Well done to all staff for making this such a success.

For full details of the survey please contact francine.barsam@whittington.nhs.uk



Update on colposcopy department

Since 1 April 2008, the cervical screening service offered by the Whittington cytopathology and colposcopy departments have adopted the recommended system of direct referral for women with abnormal smear results. Women who attend their GP practice or family planning clinic for their screening smears as normal. However if the Whittington laboratory reports the smear as abnormal, the results are automatically