

EXECUTIVE CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

23/05/2022

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee are well underway and as we approach the extended bank holiday weekend, it's important to remember a few things to ensure you are prepared and that you and your loved ones stay healthy and well.

There are a large number of events planned across the city and surrounding areas including the Jubilee Concert at Cardiff Castle and various local street parties and celebrations taking place so please be aware that many areas will be busy. Look out on our [website](#) and social media channels as we will be sharing information about keeping well while still enjoying the celebrations.

One of the easiest ways in which you can take care is by ensuring you have your repeat prescriptions in advance as GP Surgeries will be closed over the bank holidays.

Bank holidays are always a busy time for us so please be aware that attendance at the Emergency Unit is for those with a life-threatening or limb-threatening condition and waits for other presentations will likely be extended. Priority will be given to those with the most urgent needs, so if you think you, or someone you know, experiences an injury or illness over the bank holiday weekend, and you think it needs to be assessed at the Emergency Unit then please phone first by calling 111.

If you need to access healthcare information, advice or urgent care support over the weekend, 111 is available. You can access a range of healthcare advice and local information on the [NHS 111 Wales website](#).

Thank you to everyone who will be working over the bank holiday period to ensure that services are there for the people who need them. And if you are not working, enjoy the celebrations and the time with family and friends.

[You may have read about the Pelvic Health Community Hub on our website last week](#), a new collaborative service that brings together health, local charities and industry to establish the first centre of its kind in Wales. The Hub opened last week and is a huge step forward in providing pelvic health treatment to those across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.



The Pelvic Health Community Hub is based in the Outpatient Department at Barry Hospital and will deliver patient-focused support, advice and treatment options for the management of pelvic organ prolapse, incontinence and bowel dysfunction. The Hub is supported by Pelvic Health Service Co-ordinator, a role that has been established within each Health Board across Wales as a result of Welsh Government funding.

Following the local council elections earlier this month, I personally would like to wish those newly elected councillors my warmest congratulations and I, and the Executive team here at Cardiff and the Vale UHB, very much look forward to meeting with you and working closely with you to plan and continuously improve and deliver health and social care within our local communities.

Best wishes,

Abi Harris

Executive Director of Strategic Planning

1. Celebrating staff achievements in our Clinical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Clinical Board

Congratulations to all who were awarded in the physio recognition event that was held on 25 April in celebration of Cardiff and Vale UHB's clinical staff for their hard work and dedicated service over the last 18 months.

Thank you to Cardiff & Vale Health Charity for supporting this event that awarded ten worthy winners.

Clinical Director of Therapies, Emma Cooke said: "I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our clinical staff for their commitment to our Health Board, particularly during the

extremely difficult times that the pandemic has brought to healthcare. Without their efforts and care we would not have been able to carry out the important work we do to care for Cardiff and Vale communities and patients.

"A sincere congratulations to all of our winners and runners up, you are all, individually, truly worthy of these awards." See a roundup of our award categories, winners and runners-up here.

2. Delivering Care in the Community

Within the community, nurses have a dynamic and varied role, delivering care in people's homes, community settings, GP surgeries and clinics every day. During April, the varied team of healthcare professionals has been supporting patients to ensure they are receiving safe and effective care, that not only enables patients to remain in the comfort of their own homes, but also helps to prevent hospital admission.

In April, our Acute Response Team of experienced nurses, who work to expedite discharge from hospital or prevent hospital admission, supported 13 patients with early discharge.

During the course of the last month, our District Nursing teams undertook 16,734 visits to patients in community settings completing roles such as, wound care, diabetic care, catheter care, medication administration and palliative care amongst other things. Community nurses are currently supporting 3,548 patients across Cardiff and Vale to remain in their own homes and Nurse Assessors supported and reviewed 1,653 patients to ensure they were receiving safe and appropriate care for their needs in

community settings and nursing homes.

The Cardiff Community Resource Team (CRT) and Vale Community Resource Service (VCRS), which are teams of multi-disciplinary professionals who are supporting patients within their community to avoid unnecessary hospital stays and receive care at home, are currently supporting 1,032 patients. Throughout April, they helped 25 patients to avoid hospital admission, supported 79 patients with early discharge from hospital and accepted 242 patients who require therapy support within the community.

The work of our community teams does not go unrecognised, and we would like to say thank you to the teams and wards who continue to make the most of our community services.

3. One week left to apply to join the Genomics Partnership Wales patient and Public Sounding Board

Genomics Partnership Wales is looking to recruit individuals with a range of experiences to join our Sounding Board. We know the issues surrounding genomics are complex and want to work with members of the public to help us shape the future of Genomics.

Join the Sounding Board for an opportunity to help shape policies, care pathways and research that will affect people with rare or inherited diseases, or those requiring genetic testing as part of their healthcare.

Please complete an Expression of Interest form on the [Health and Care Research Wales website](#) by 31 May 2022.

[Take a look at the full role description and find out more information on the website here.](#)

4. Annual Eye Ball celebrations

On Saturday 14 May the annual Eye Ball was held, a coming together of the eye care community celebrating the ophthalmology trainees' graduation, with eye care managers and optometrists. The host for the evening was Mr Gwyn Williams, Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology for Wales. Clinical Director, Wai Siene Ng, attended with the rest of the team from Cardiff and Vale UHB including General Manager Hayley Dixon, the admin team and many more whom are involved in the eye care pathway. Particular congratulations and thanks were given to Consultant Ophthalmology Trainer Mr Patrick Watts for his leadership of the ophthalmology training scheme for Wales, with grateful thanks from all of the trainees.

5. Video appointments success



I was surprised to read over the past few days that since they were introduced at the Health Board in April 2020, video appointments have prevented more than 200 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

[The NHS Wales Virtual Consultation Service](#) enables patients to attend their healthcare appointment virtually, without having to leave the comfort of their own home, and more than 70,000 appointments have taken place in this way over the past two years, preventing 750,000 miles of travel our patients.

The service has become really integral to how we deliver our services, and continues to be popular with our patients with more video consultations being attended by Cardiff and Vale UHB patients than anywhere else in Wales, despite larger populations elsewhere.

Offering a convenient, environmentally friendly option for attending appointments, we expect the service's popularity will further increase this year at a time when fuel costs are rising.

I'm so pleased that the team are really leading the way with this service, and hope that together we can maintain that momentum for the continued success of the service into the future.

6. New Patient Experience Support Workers Recruited During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Patient Experience Team were able to recruit more Patient Experience Support Workers to assist during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is one of many projects made possible by funding from NHS Charities Together, we are now working on collating these projects in one space on our website. [Read more here.](#)



7. The Dementia Darnings by Jenni Dutton

The Hearth Gallery is delighted to present the Dementia Darnings exhibition by multi-media artist Jenni Dutton. In this body of work, Jenni responds to her mother's dementia diagnosis by using stitching to re-create portraits of her mum from old photo albums. The artwork is beautiful and we have already had lovely feedback from our patients and staff at UHL. The exhibition has toured extensively in the UK and travelled to Europe, and China. This will be the first time it's shown in Wales and the Hearth Gallery is proud to host it. [Read more here.](#)