

Primary Care

Industrial Action - Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2023 (focus on Community Nursing Service provision)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has advised that they are taking industrial action on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2023. The strike action will last for 12 hours on each day, 8.00am - 8.00pm.

As a result of the industrial action, a number of RCN members that work at Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust will be on strike on these days.

The Trust respects the right of trade union members to take part in planned industrial action. NHS pay is a matter for the Government and trade unions.

We have tried and tested plans in place to mitigate risks to patient safety and manage any disruption, including industrial action. There will be disruptions to a number of our services including

Community Nursing.

As part of those plans we have agreed with the RCN our Community Nursing Service will be derogated for the days of action. Therefore we will be operating at a reduced capacity in line with 'Christmas Day' staffing.

Nursing teams have been in contact with all patients and their carers to ensure that their needs are met and identified those who require ongoing care during this time.

During the days of action, our community nursing staff will be working across Wirral (rather than on a locality basis) from a central nursing hub.

The service can be contacted in the usual way <https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/community-nursing/>

Please see the table below for changes to service provision on 18 and 19 January:



| Community Nursing | |
|--|--|
| What we will provide | What we are not able to provide |
| Administration of medications via syringe drivers | Routine referrals from GP Out of Hours, care agencies or hospitals |
| Administration of insulins | Dressing changes |
| Daily injectables | Pressure area care / management |
| Blocked catheters | Non-critical medication administration |
| Palliative care for patients requiring management of symptoms or pain relief | Personal care |
| Administration of IV treatment | Equipment checks |
| Visits for patients with complex needs including the management of severely complex wounds | |
| Apomorphine treatment | |
| Regular bowel care management | |
| PEG feed medication | |

Community Nursing Nights service

The Community Nursing Nights service will not be affected from 8.00pm. However they will continue to prioritise visits based on clinical need.

During the days of action

To help ensure the safety of our service users and the patients, senior leaders will be based in a command centre at Victoria Central Health Centre on both days to review the current position and react and respond accordingly.

As this is the round of first industrial action to take place across the Trust we are unable to confirm how many members of RCN staff will strike. This may have an impact on the delivery of derogated services on both days.

Please visit our Stakeholder page on our [website](#) for further updates.

