

Stakeholder update

Industrial Action - Royal College of Nursing (RCN) - Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2023

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 (WCHC) 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. Although 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.

Preparations

We have been working closely with our RCN colleagues to minimise the impact on service users and patients and ensure patient safety and have agreed a number of derogations* to support this.

Patients whose appointments are impacted have already been advised and are being supported with rearranging their appointments.

A derogation is an exemption, either of an individual or a whole service, from taking part in strike action. Both people and services can be derogated. Derogations are what the RCN uses to deliver **safe strikes.*

Expected impact during Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2023

Urgent Care

- **Walk-in Centres**
- **Minor Injuries**

The current position is that there will be no Walk-in services or Minor Injuries provision at Victoria Central Health Centre and Eastham Clinic. We are monitoring this and there may be further updates.

Patients requiring urgent care will be signposted to alternative services including pharmacy, GP, NHS111, Minor Injury and Illness Service at Miriam Medical Centre, and the Urgent Treatment Centre at Arrowe Park Hospital.

- **Urgent Treatment Centre & GP Out Of Hours (GPOOH)**

The Urgent Treatment Centre at Arrowe Park will be operational with Christmas Day staffing levels from 8.00am – 10.00pm.

- **Two Hour Urgent Community Response (UCR)**

The service will continue to provide a two hour urgent community response service. Referrals can be made in the usual way. More details available on our [website](#).

Community Nursing

We have agreed with the RCN that 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 levels.

Nursing teams have been in contact with all patients and their carers to ensure that their needs are met and have 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.

Community Intermediate Care Centre (CICC)

The centre will remain operational during the two days of action. Safe staffing levels will be maintained.

Children's Services

- **Specialist School Nursing**

To maintain patient safety during the strike we are unable to provide Special School Nursing services during the two days of action. As a result, it has been confirmed that Wirral Special Schools will remain closed on both days, re-opening on Friday 20 January. Parents and carers have been informed.

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 first round of 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.