Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of Connect, a newsletter produced by Tallaght Hospital for our referring GP’s and their Practice staff.

Connect will issue on a quarterly basis and is designed to keep primary care physicians up-to-date on recent developments within Tallaght Hospital.

The hospital is constantly trying to improve the services it provides, some of the initiatives are outlined in this newsletter. In addition we have this year opened an extended Emergency Department (ED), this two phase development which completed on schedule involved the refurbishment of our existing ED and the building of a 1,053 square metre new extension.

This €5M redevelopment project has enabled us to incorporate the latest best practice in Emergency medicine into the design of the new ED and integrate the new model of care as per the National Emergency Medicine Programme.

Our ED is one of the busiest in the country, last year we treated over 80,000 patients in our Adult and Children’s ED’s, the recent development has vastly improved the patient and staff environment.

Early results indicate that despite an overall increase in ED attendances of 2% ED staff have managed to see patients 10% faster, reducing the average length of stay to 6.6 hours vs 7.3 hours.

Tallaght Hospital is at the forefront of developments in the Irish hospital system, responding to people’s needs on a daily basis.

We are at the core of the local community and a key member of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group which service a population of over 1.2M people across seven counties. We look forward to bringing you regular updates on developments within the hospital and welcome your feedback on items you would like to see covered.

Best wishes

Lucy Nugent
Chief Operations Officer

The GP Steering Committee

The Core members of the GP steering Committee are Ms Lucy Nugent, Chief Operations Officer (COO) and Chairperson, she works directly with the Chief Executive Officer of Tallaght Hospital, Mr David Slevin.

Also the Lead Clinical Director, our conduit to the Medical Board. Mr Martin Feeley, Consultant Vascular Surgeon had filled this post up till this term. We thank Martin for his support and goodwill.

Also three local GP’s from the Dublin South-west ICGP Faculty:

Dr Andy Jordan: andyjjordan@gmail.com
Dr Deena Ramiah: drramiah@yahoo.ie
Dr Brian Blake: drbrianblake@gmail.com

The committee including the COO, Representative from the Medical Board, three GP’s and invited representatives from specialist services including consultants, nurses and corporate management meet every second Friday of each month at 8am in Tallaght Hospital.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are: The committee promotes partnership and collaborative service planning between referring GPs and consultant led services in Tallaght Hospital. Planned developments and decisions to be made within the hospital or in primary care settings which directly impact on the Hospital / General Practice / HSE should be referred to the Committee for information and consideration via the COO.

Recommendations made by the Committee for action either the GPs or by Tallaght Hospital will be brought back to the GP forum and hospital executive management committee where appropriate.

At this moment in time, we are concerned with the lack of an appropriate GP Ultrasound Referral Service and have been encouraging the hospital to address this deficit. We have also been encouraging Tallaght Hospital to engage with two new exciting IT initiatives which will improve the referral process and foster communications and relationships between GP’s and the hospital Consultants. The first of these is electronic referral. As the pilot has now ended, we would like to see this extended to all specialties in Tallaght Hospital, as this will improve patient safety, reduce time and costs for the GP’s and Tallaght Hospital and provide verification that a referral has been received. The other initiative is the recently launched secure clinical email service (Healthmail). With this, which is free for all GP’s, we can safely send patient and sensitive data to @amnch.ie addresses. The recipient will of course have to agree to receive emails in this way but it is one the biggest IT developments in General Practice in recent times and is funded by the HSE.

We welcome feedback from referring GP’s and are happy to raise issues you may have with Tallaght Hospital in this forum. We are hoping that this newsletter will become a regular publication and help to inform referring GP’s of developments in Tallaght Hospital as well as highlighting what the GP Steering Committee is working on currently.

Andy, Brian & Deena
New Children’s Hospital

The planning application for the new children’s hospital was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on Monday August 10th 2015. The plans submitted include those for the new children’s hospital as well as for the two Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Satellite Centres planned at on our site and at Connolly Hospital.

There were over 1,000 hours of engagement and consultation with staff from the existing three children’s hospitals, the Clinical Leads in Paediatric Specialties, with families, young people and children who are former or current users of the service, as well as with residents from the local Dublin 8 area. This extensive consultation process has led to the development of a world-class building which has been designed to enable staff to deliver the best possible clinical care for children and young people, while also seeking to provide a pleasant environment for staff and families.

Commenting on the process in the lead up to the planning application, David Slevin, CEO of Tallaght Hospital said: “The proposed Model of Care will greatly enhance the care provided to the paediatric community in Dublin in line with international best practice. The Paediatric team at Tallaght Hospital is providing an integral role in developing the integration process with the other two children’s hospitals. We are very excited at Tallaght about the development of the Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Satellite Centre on our campus here in Tallaght Hospital.”

A decision from An Bord Pleanála is expected in 2016. Subject to planning, construction for the hospital will commence in the first half of 2016 and services will start to transition in 2019 moving toward full operations in 2020. The hospital satellites are expected to be completed in 2017.

Know Your Medicines

Reducing preventable harm related to medicines through innovation and public information was the focus of our second Tallaght Hospital patient’s safety initiatives under our Zero Harm banner.

Medication has been found to cause serious adverse reactions in 4% of patients and can lead to profound and devastating effects on patients and their carers, in addition to prolonged and more resource intensive hospital care. Tallaght Hospital is tackling this by focusing on a serious of initiatives to help improve medication safety. Internally this has involved the launch of an app of the Tallaght Hospital Adult Medicines Guide which is being widely used in the hospital as an in-house, evidence based source of medicines information and prescribing protocols.

From a patient perspective we have introduced a ‘My Medicines’ leaflet in which patients / their carers can document a list of their current medicines. We are encouraging patients to bring these leaflets filled into their appointments with all medical professionals. The leaflet is available for free download from our website www.amch.ie/GP-Healthcare-Professionals/Know-Your-Medicines/
Cardiology Chest Pain Initiative

Chest Pain represents a major proportion of the workload for Tallaght Hospital's Emergency Department, and combined with the catchment population of the hospital, the number of patients presenting with chest pain is set to increase. The range of Coronary Heart Disease is broad and appropriate diagnosis and treatment can be challenging, both on time and resources that are already in demand. The goal for the health practitioner is to identify high-risk patients that require urgent treatment and address the needs of lower risk patients for whom emerging heart disease is a concern.

A nurse lead chest pain service was developed in Tallaght Hospital to facilitate safe discharge from the ED and AMAU for non-Acute Coronary Syndromes chest pain patients. A Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) (Cardiology) and two Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) (Cardiology) provide the service.

The aim is to expertly assess and risk stratify patients who present with non-ACS chest pain to allow those with suspected stable coronary artery disease to be identified and treated, whilst those without, to be safely discharged. The initiative adopted has two parts 1) a cardiology nurse consultation service to the ED and AMAU 2) a cardiology nurse lead chest pain clinic for further assessment and exercise stress testing.

Patients are referred to the chest pain clinic by either the cardiology nurse during consult hours or out-of-hours by the ED physicians.

The benefits

On-going audit has shown the success of the combined partnership between the ED, AMAU and cardiology. In the first two years 1,300 patients have been discharged from ED and followed up in the chest pain clinic, this has made an incalculable difference to the patients and their families avoiding the stress and anxiety a hospital admission may cause. This initiative, the Nurse-led Chest Pain Service - Cardiology Nursing Department, was the winner of the best ‘Healthcare Department Initiative - Large/Teaching Hospital’ in the Irish Healthcare Awards announced in April 2015.

Ireland’s first Faecal Microbiota Transplant

Ireland’s first clinical Faecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) has been carried out successfully in Tallaght Hospital. The procedure was carried out by Prof. Deirdre McNamara, consultant gastroenterologist at Tallaght and Associate Professor of Gastroenterology at Trinity.

It is becoming increasingly common for C. difficile to become antibiotic resistant and most cases are treatable with a simple course of antibiotics, which clears the infection. Due to the resistance of antibiotics it can take multiple attempts to find the right antibiotic but in the interim you have a patient whose condition is deteriorating.

This was the case with our patient who did not respond to a number of antibiotic treatments for a C. difficile infection.

Based on relatively new data and on international evidence it was felt FMT was the only option for this patient. There was no Irish protocol governing it, so Prof. McNamara and Prof. Philip Murphy, Professor of Clinical Microbiology in Tallaght established a multidisciplinary group to see how we would develop protocols for FMT.

The team for the A-FIB clinic comprises (from left to right) Dr. David Moore consultant cardiologist, Dr. Mark Sherlock, consultant endocrinologist, Dr. Johnny McHugh, consultant haematologist, Dr. Tara Coughlan, consultant geriatrician and stroke physician, Dr. David Mulcahy, consultant cardiologist, Dr. Rónán Collins consultant geriatrician and stroke physician and Dr. Bryan Loo, consultant cardiologist.
New Haematology Clinic

Following the recruitment of a new consultant to the Haematology team at Tallaght Hospital a new General Haematology clinic is now open for referrals at Naas General Hospital.

The clinic is on Friday mornings starting at 9:30am. Referrals for appointment should be sent directly to Consultant Ronan Desmond, Consultant Haematologist, Naas General Hospital, Co. Kildare.

Tallaght Hospital Children blood test appointments

The introduction of online booking for bloods has been extended to children’s blood tests.

Appointments for children can now be booked through our hospital website www.amnch.ie choosing the Patients & Visitors tab on the top of the page and clicking on the ‘Book GP Blood Tests’ option. Can we please ask you to advise all parents of the new system that we have put in place, the new system enables them to select an appointment time that is suited to them and their schedule. It is important to advise them that they must bring the blood request form on the day of appointment to ensure the test can proceed.

If you have any questions on the system please contact Sharon Moran, the GP Liaison Nurse Children’s Emergency Department at Tallaght Hospital. Tel: 01 414 2396 or by email: Sharon.Moran@amnch.ie the office hours for Sharon are 9.30am -14.30pm Monday - Thursday.

Upcoming education events available for GP’s and Practice Nurses

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<th>Title</th>
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| Venepuncture & Intravenous Cannulation     | 28/08/2015 to 25/09/2015     | Sinead.fagan@amnch.ie           | €50    | Two Rock Clinical Skills, CLD | › Anaphylaxis in Primary Care  
› Final Journeys – End of Life Care  
› Falls Education Programme  
› Preceptorship & Competency Education Programme  
› Radiation Protection  
› Cancer Care Education Programme  
› An Introduction to Wound Care Management |
| Grand Rounds – two presentations every Friday with a blend of case discussion, workshops and didactic content | Next date: 04/09/2015 – Every Friday during term 8-9 am | Sandra.daly@amnch.ie | N/A | Trinity Lecture Theatre, Tallaght Hospital |                                                                                 |
| Nursing Conference                         | 29/09/2015                   | THNursingconference@amnch.ie     | N/A    | Trinity Lecture Theatre, Tallaght Hospital |                                                                                      |

Consultant update

**STARTERS**

- Dr. John Doherty  
  Geriatrics
- Dr. Susie Frost  
  Microbiology
- Dr. Allan McCarthy  
  Neurology
- Mr. Martin Timothy Murphy  
  Spinal Surgery
- Dr. Nader Al-Mane  
  Anaesthesia
- Dr. Montasser Gadsayed  
  Paediatric Medicine (covering Dr. Basil Elnazir – sabbatical)

**LEAVERS**

- Dr. Andreas Kyriakou  
  Paediatric Endocrinology (covering Prof. Edna Roche – sabbatical)
- Dr. Deirdre Brady  
  Microbiology (covering Dr. Jerome Fennell – career break)

**Date to Remember**

The Tallaght Hospital annual GP Study Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th 2015. Hosted in our Centre for Learning Development, the day provides us with an opportunity to introduce new colleagues and provide an education forum and showcase new developments in our services. Further details on the popular event will be posted on our Facebook and website in coming weeks. If you want to be added to the mailing list for an event program to be sent directly please contact Sandra Daly [Sandra.Daly@amnch.ie] Tel: 01 414 2883

If you would like any more information about any articles in the Connect or have suggestions for future editions please do get in touch.

Email: GPCconnect@amnch.ie

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