

Dear colleagues,

First Breast Pain Clinic in the country to be launched in Mid-Nottinghamshire on Thursday 30th January 2020

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Breast Pain Clinic, the first of this type of clinic in the country. This will help to fulfil a NICE guideline requirement in Primary Care, as patients will undergo assessment of their family history as well as diagnosis and management of breast pain. There is evidence of unmet need of family history in Mid-Nottinghamshire contributing to missed opportunities for early detection and treatment of breast cancer leading to poor outcome for these patients.

This clinic has been developed jointly by Sherwood Forest Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust Breast Unit in collaboration with Mansfield and Ashfield CCG, Newark and Sherwood CCG and primary care colleagues as part of the ICS transformation plan to improve patient experience and outcomes. At present, up to 20% of referrals to the breast clinic predominantly have breast pain as their symptom and therefore undergo unnecessary investigations in the breast clinic. This clinic is in addition to the existing two week wait breast cancer referral clinics which will remain unchanged. It is hoped this will improve the level of care patients receive as well as reduce unwarranted referrals into secondary care.

Benefits of this service

- An improved experience for patients with breast pain;
- Reduced repeat GP attendances;
- Reduced unwarranted referrals to the breast clinic;
- Improved early detection of significant breast cancer family history.

Clinical criteria for referral

- Patients who are unassured after assessment by GP.
- Recurrent GP attendances with breast pain as the predominant symptoms.

Referral mechanism

- Via Electronic Referral System, (ERS), similar to the current two-week wait referral proforma. However there will be a separate referral template for this clinic.
- Once in the ERS system please select:
 - Specification – Breast surgery
 - Clinic type – Other symptom breast (2ww), which will then give the option of selecting the Mid Notts Breast pain Clinic.'

What happens at the clinic

The patient will undergo a detailed history and examination and computer based (FaHRAS) family history risk assessment.

Following this:

- Patients with normal clinical and family history findings will be reassured and discharged with pain treatment advice as per the mastalgia pathway.
- Patients with clinical assessment suspicious of breast cancer will be directly referred to the breast service for triple assessment at King's Mill Hospital.
- Patients with high risk family history will be directly referred to the family history clinic at King's Mill Hospital.

Location

The weekly out of hours clinic will take place at the Primary Care Centre (PC24) at King's Mill Hospital.

Primary care colleagues (GPs) and nurse practitioners are invited to become part of this service and any necessary training in breast assessment can be provided flexibly around your availabilities. It is anticipated that in the future, this service will be run in a primary care setting and/or the community.

Yours sincerely,

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