

Information for you about proposals to improve care for patients with heart and lung disease: now and in the future

We are proposing to change how we provide care and treatment for patients with heart and lung disease. As one of our patients it is important that you understand these proposals and have a chance to say what you think.

Healthcare professionals – such as doctors and nurses - and researchers at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust and King's Health Partners (the Academic Health Sciences Centre comprising Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital, and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts and King's College London University) are working together to improve heart and lung care in London, southern England and nationally.

Our ambition is to provide the very best care for our patients using the latest research and innovations to improve their lives both today and into the future. We want to build on the excellent care that you already receive from the teams already caring for you. However there may be new opportunities to offer care closer to where you live as well as improve that support.

Your input is very important. This is an opportunity to design the kind of care you and your family and other people like you will receive in the future. Your current experience could make a valuable contribution to our proposals - even small things could make a big difference.

Context

Both Royal Brompton & Harefield and King's Health Partners are recognised as leaders in heart and lung care, research and education. Already working together in many areas, the partnership will continue to build on our respective strengths with each organisation while maintaining our individual identities. We have already taken into account the outcome of the national children's congenital heart disease consultation, which recommended that care currently delivered at Royal Brompton will need to move to be alongside other services for children.

Our vision

More of us – adults and children - are living with heart and lung diseases than ever before. Enormous progress has been made in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of these conditions over the past decades for the seven million adults now living with heart disease and twelve million with lung conditions in the UK. For children with serious conditions, advances in treatment mean that more are growing into adulthood.

However, heart and lung diseases continue to be leading causes of early death and we lag behind some first world countries in treating them. We need to change the way that we deliver services to take full advantage of the latest in technology, scientific knowledge and treatments so that we can provide better care for our patients now and in the future.

Each year our teams support thousands of patients of all ages with both heart and lung conditions, ranging from common conditions to the most complex. By working more closely together we believe we can develop services for heart and lung patients of all ages which will be at the forefront of modern healthcare.

Our goal is to deliver *the best outcomes for patients, wherever they receive care, and to provide equal access across our current hospital sites and across southern England.*

We have a once in a generation opportunity to bring together the strengths of each organisation in a partnership that gives us the scale to deliver new and more effective ways of working and to increase innovation in patient care. This will mean that we will be able to support patients to manage their condition locally or from home, or when needed, provide access to world-leading specialist care. The partnership will be able to attract and retain the best clinicians, researchers and academics and to bring in research funding and investment from across the UK and around the world.

What the proposed new model of care will look like

We have a lot of ideas about how we can make our services even better. Here, we want to highlight four main areas that could radically change how we treat patients:

1. **A new, world class, purpose built centre at Westminster Bridge.** We want to bring together our specialist teams into a single team treating patients across multiple sites, including in a new, world class, purpose built centre. This will include a new building for adult services, and an expansion of the Evelina London Children's Hospital (part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust). The centre will deliver combined clinical care and research for patients of all ages from across London, southern England and nationally. Importantly, we will also ensure local care is delivered to the highest standards.

This site will include all the inpatient services from the current Royal Brompton Hospital sites on Sydney Street and Fulham Road, and the majority of complex heart and lung services from Guy's and St Thomas' and King's College Hospitals.

2. **New research and educational facilities.** In addition to providing treatment for patients, the site at Westminster Bridge will provide state-of-the-art research and educational facilities. By bringing together doctors and academic researchers, we can ensure our patients have access to leading treatments as early as possible.

We believe that creating this new centre is truly exciting – but we want it to improve care for patients well beyond its walls:

3. **A shift to care without hospital admission, nearer to home.** Outpatient services, diagnostic appointments and same-day procedures will be offered in locations across London, the surrounding areas and southern England. This will reduce the need for patients to travel to a specialist centre or be admitted, often meaning they can get the expert support they need as quickly as possible.

4. **Work with partners delivering** healthcare across London and southern England. Patients and, primary and community care professionals will be able to connect to expert care and advice in ways that do not currently happen today – enabled through new technology such as remote monitoring and support such as Skype clinics.

These proposals mean that heart and lung patients who are currently managed at the Royal Brompton's Sydney Street and Fulham Road sites will continue to receive care that does not require an admission to hospital at local facilities in North West London; this will account for the majority of their visits. Inpatient services will no longer be provided at the Sydney Street and Fulham Road sites, and instead will be provided at the purpose built new centre at Westminster Bridge, 3 miles away, as well as continue to be provided at Harefield Hospital and other North West London sites.

Many inpatient heart and lung services, particularly the less complex treatments, will still be provided at King's College Hospital on Denmark Hill. In addition, there will be enhanced outpatient, diagnostics and same-day procedure services.

Why coming together will deliver better care

We think there are lots of benefits from these ideas. We want to share some of the reasons why we think that these approaches will improve care:

Better care for patients with more common conditions: we want to help people get the right care in the most appropriate place as soon as possible. This means people will not have to come to hospital so often. As a partnership, we can increase the number of patients who receive care at home, through remote monitoring devices and online or telephone appointments, and improve care delivered locally in hospitals and clinics closer to home. We can also reduce the time it takes for patients to receive specialist treatment; and, as before, if a patient does need to come to hospital, we can reduce the time they need to spend there. We also want to ensure earlier and more accurate diagnosis to help to improve quality of life.

Better care for patients with rarer conditions: by bringing together specialists from across our organisations, we enable them to focus more on rarer conditions (also called sub-specialties). This means that they will treat more people with these conditions, be able to offer better support and carry out research to develop new medicines and treatments.

Better research and innovation: by bringing clinical and research teams together at the Westminster Bridge site, we will speed up how quickly new discoveries and technologies can be developed, assessed through clinical trials and then become part of standard patient care. This means that many more of our patients will have the opportunity to take part in and benefit from clinical research.

Better for our staff: we are confident our partnership will attract world-leading clinicians, researchers and academics. It will mean we will be a leader in training the next generation of nurses, doctors and other clinical staff who will make sure our patients live longer and healthier lives. In turn, this will attract research funding and investment from the UK and around the world. Patients and their families will also benefit from educational programmes and patient driven research.

What could this mean for you?

- **Access:** Improved access to care and support for all, no matter where you live
- **Quality:** Access to healthcare professionals across southern England who are better supported to consistently deliver the best quality standards of care
- **Travel:** Fewer journeys to hospital appointments through better use of technology
- **Waiting times:** Reduced waiting times to see a specialist as patients will be directly connected through remote monitoring and support
- **Less time in hospital:** More patients will be treated in the community, and many of those who do come into hospital will be able to go home more quickly
- **Innovation:** Our patients will have faster access to new services, drugs and technologies
- **Holistic care:** We will provide joined-up physical and mental healthcare as this has been shown to improve patient experience, recovery and outcomes

An example: life-long care for a patient with Congenital Heart Disease

“Oliver”, a child born in Kent with Congenital Heart Disease, has had over a dozen hospital admissions during the first 10 years of his life, often staying for many weeks. In addition he and his parents have travelled to many outpatient assessments for conditions associated with his Congenital Heart Disease.

During this time, Oliver has been cared for at his local hospital in Kent, as well as at Royal Brompton Hospital, Evelina London Children’s Hospital, and King’s College Hospital. Each time he has to travel into London, a train fare for him and his parents costs £65.

Oliver is doing very well, which is a testament to the skill and care of all those who have looked after him and to his parents’ loving care and ability to travel and keep all his hospital appointments. However, we think patients like Oliver and his family can have a better experience in the future with our proposal for radical improvement in heart and lung care:

- More specialist services will be together so Oliver does not have to go to so many different hospital sites
- There will be less duplication, with shared IT and imaging technology, so Oliver can have diagnostic tests locally that are sent directly to his specialist consultants
- Oliver will have to travel to hospital less often. His outpatient appointments will be combined into a ‘one stop shop’ so he doesn’t have to make so many visits
- Technology will help provide support when it is needed – remote monitoring devices will track Oliver’s heart, and report back on key readings to his clinical team
- As Oliver becomes an adult he can continue to be cared for with the same organisation that has cared for him since birth

Oliver will still receive excellent care from those that work with him, but the care will be more convenient, and closely tailored to his needs.

What we are doing already

Our partnership builds on the strong foundations of King's Health Partners, itself a collaboration between Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital, and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts and King's College London University. King's Health Partners brings together patient care and research so that new discoveries benefit patients more quickly.

Even before any further partnership with Royal Brompton and Harefield is in place we are starting to work more closely together to benefit patients. In fact, we are already starting to be able to bring new services together with new ways of working, creating joint teams to deliver care to patients and access to research so that we can benefit from each other's expertise sooner. For example:

- The Evelina London Children's Hospital and Royal Brompton are working together on arrangements for a new Kawasaki Disease Service to support children with this rare heart disease
- A single King's Health Partners team working together at the Westminster Bridge site has already delivered innovative and better treatments to local heart patients, which have been taken up nationally and internationally
- Clinicians in very specialist areas – such as Electrophysiology – are working together between hospital sites so that patients can have expert input when they need it
- Surgeons are working together successfully on new surgical procedures
- Royal Brompton and King's Health Partners are developing joint research programmes using Artificial Intelligence to identify and treat patients with heart disease earlier

What happens next

Your feedback will inform the proposals as they are being developed by clinicians and researchers from across the partners. These proposals will be taken through the NHS' decision making process, and will shape the public consultation NHS England are planning to run in spring 2019.

If we receive approval after NHS England's decision process, we can develop further details in to a business case. This needs to be completed and agreed by NHS England by summer 2021. In the meantime, we will continue to work with patients and the public to help co-design the shape of future services.