



Renal News

ISSUE 9



Dr Clara Day
Lead Consultant for Haemodialysis

Welcome to Renal News

Welcome to the ninth edition of Renal News – our renal dialysis service bulletin.

We aim to keep you up-to-date with developments in our dialysis programme and information about our new units.

We also have made some important decisions about dialysis provision in the Redditch and Bromsgrove area, which will see us extending our services to provide care for patients who live south of Birmingham.

We hope you find this information useful however, please do get in touch should you have any questions or concerns.

Clara Day

Dr Clara Day
Lead Consultant for Haemodialysis

University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust

Official Opening of Smethwick Dialysis Centre announced



Pictured: Smethwick Dialysis Centre

Almost six months after receiving its first patient, Smethwick Dialysis Centre will be officially opened.

The event will take place on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 2pm at the centre in Rabone Lane, Smethwick.

Patients, staff and relatives will be invited to attend a short ceremony and enjoy refreshments as part of the celebrations.

Emma Cooper, Project Manager said: "The team are extremely excited about the Official Opening as it will give everyone who has been involved in the opening



We are really looking forward to marking the six month anniversary in this special way. ”

Emma Cooper

of Smethwick Dialysis Centre a chance to come together and mark this incredible achievement. What's more we are really looking forward to marking the six month anniversary in this special way with the people at the heart of the project – our patients."

Plans for new Redditch dialysis unit unveiled

Haemodialysis patients from Redditch and Bromsgrove who currently have to travel for dialysis treatment, will soon have a new dialysis unit on their doorstep.

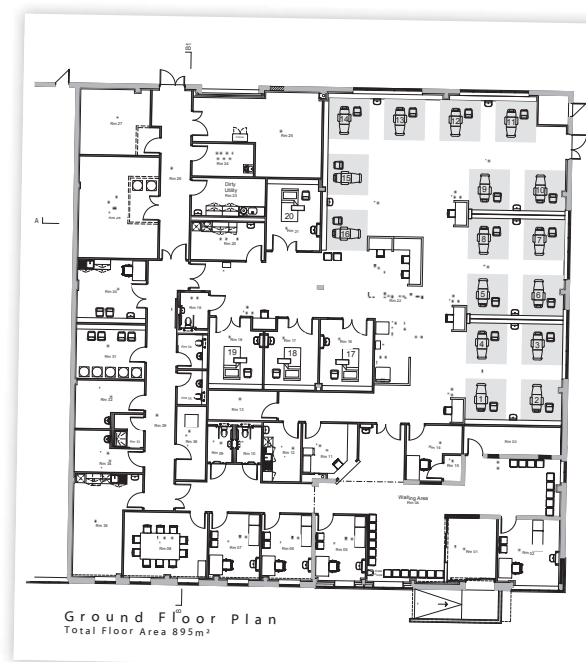
University Hospitals Birmingham will be opening a 20-station satellite facility to cater for around 50 patients from the north of Worcestershire who require dialysis, with the capacity to treat up to 100 in the future.

Dr Clara Day, who leads the haemodialysis programme in the West Midlands said: "We understand that travelling to and from dialysis sessions can be a source of anxiety for patients, so we hope that opening a centre in Redditch minimises travel time and enables more people to be treated close to their homes."

The centre will be run by Diaverum, who also manage the Aston, Hereford, Kings Norton and Great Bridges treatment centres.

Kim Beak, Project Manager for Diaverum said: "Diaverum are really excited to be continuing our partnership with UHB, building a new clinic in Redditch. The clinic will open in spring next year and we look forward to welcoming new patients to visit once construction is completed in March. The clinic has 20 stations; four of these are in private side rooms. There are four consulting rooms and WiFi will be provided throughout the clinic."

Dr Jonathan Wells, Chair and Clinical Lead of Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG



said: "This is great news and will further enhance local health services for local patients."

"We fully support the move to bring haemodialysis nearer to people's homes and we will be working closely with UHB to develop plans for more locally based services in the future."

In memory of Linda Brown

It is with great sadness that we must inform you of the sudden passing of Woodgate Valley's deputy clinic manager, Linda Brown, who died on 3 October.

Linda qualified as a nurse in 2006, entering the world of caring for patients with kidney failure at Walsall dialysis unit.

In 2009 Linda moved to Woodgate Valley dialysis unit to support the new unit staff and patients as team leader.

Linda stayed at Woodgate Valley for the rest of her career rising to the position of deputy clinic manager.

Speaking fondly of their colleague, staff at Woodgate Valley reflected on Linda's work.



Linda (fourth from left) with her colleagues at Woodgate Valley

"Remembering Linda isn't difficult, as all she did and was, are memories we will cherish. Linda was the true meaning of a nurse, always helping and doing for others. Being an early bird, Linda was always first into work (at 5am), preparing

the machines ready for the day staff and patients and last to leave at night. Enjoying exercise, Linda ran a number of marathons and even did a sky dive for charity, all with the intention of improving patients' lives.

"As the patients at Woodgate were very dear to her, Linda participated in lots of patient parties and trips – she was always thinking of others before herself.

"Linda's loss has created a huge void at Woodgate dialysis unit and will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends."

A service will be held for Linda on 3 November at 11.30 at Streetly Crematorium.

Renal nursing assistant fulfils her Mother Theresa dream

In August, Kay Panesar, a nursing assistant on QEHB's Ward 301, fulfilled a life-long ambition to volunteer at the home of the late Mother Theresa when she visited India with her sister.

Kay has worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital since 1989. After working as a domestic in the renal unit for five years, Kay joined the nursing team as a dialysis assistant.

Her 21 years' experience in dialysis nursing meant she was able to care for some of Kolkata's most needy.

"As a teenager I used to watch and read about Mother Theresa's noble work for the poor in Kolkata, and was inspired by all she did," explained Kay. "Although I have been to India many times before, this was the first time I had the opportunity to visit Mother Theresa's home for the dying and destitute in Kolkata as a volunteer.

"Given no positive feedback about Kolkata beforehand, I was surprised to find it appeared to be one of the safest places I had ever visited in India. The people couldn't help you enough and there was no one hassling you as in other large Indian cities.

"Of course poverty and corruption was as apparent here as in other places, however the people were all generally very happy, despite being so desperately poor.

"What I found so inspiring were the number of generous youngsters from the West giving up weeks of their time to Mother Theresa's home and being passionate about their chores and help they gave. Volunteers ranged from 19–62 years old (myself being the latter) who were often travelling alone, stopping off for a few days to help out before

continuing on with their travels. There were also a number of volunteers who were regulars to the Mother's house, returning many times over the years.

"To be considered as a volunteer, I had to first register my interest at Mother Theresa's house. I had a choice of about five projects to choose from. My sister and I chose to help out at the destitute home where we worked, cleaning, clothing, bathing and caring for the residents' needs, and feeding the sick and frail.

"Being a nursing assistant at Queen Elizabeth Hospital for so many years, I was sure I was adequately prepared, but nothing could have primed me for the sorrowful sights and conditions of the frail and elderly people living on the streets, who came into the home for the comfort and food we offered.

"During my two weeks in Mother Theresa's house I experienced things one would not see in Western countries. Residents were force fed when they refused food because staff wanted them to eat and be well nourished. It was done with the best of intentions but without knowing their religious or dietary needs (some were diabetics) the care was not as dignified as we have come to expect in the UK.

"Sometimes to an outsider it may seem there was little compassion shown by the local staff who worked there day in day out. When it came to bath time, extremely frail and ill people were man handled, but I quickly realised the staff were woefully ill-equipped as there were no hoists or aids to assist them and they were doing their best."

With limited supplies of even basic equipment such as syringes, sanitary pads and protective gloves, the conditions made



Kay Panesar at Mother Theresa's home

providing safe care difficult for the staff.

"Infection prevention – an aspect of care I could contribute to with confidence as a result of my experience in dialysis at QEHB – became the responsibility of the volunteers," Kay added. "We provided advice and care for those with infections such as HIV, AIDS, and other blood born infections. It was at times like this that I felt we are so fortunate to have the resources and ability to deliver good quality and safe care.

Kay and the other volunteers were able to provide much comfort to the residents, by carrying out small gestures that are often taken for granted in the UK, such as taking the time to talk them about their wishes or holding their hand in the final hours of their life.

"We are very fortunate living here and I felt very guilty in India. Just being able to offer our patients choices, is a luxury they did not have.

"I feel I have achieved a lifelong ambition and had a life-changing experience. I will no longer take for granted all that we have and do here, and may one day I will return again, prepared and able to offer even more."

Seaside trips are a breath of fresh air for patients



Oh we do like to be beside the sea!

Caring for dialysis patients doesn't just mean providing appropriate clinical care, it also means supporting patients in other areas and helping them to enjoy life to the full.

Over the summer months, staff from Bromford - a national organisation providing a range of support services who support UHB patients - organised day trips to the beach for patients and staff.

The first seaside adventure saw a number of the patients at Sparkhill dialysis unit

head out to Weston-super-Mare for a delightful Sunday afternoon by the coast

Hailed a success, it is hope that once the weather turns warmer in the spring, more days out will be arranged.

UHB Matron Liz Simpson said: "Organising days out to the seaside for dialysis patients is a fantastic idea.

"Everyone benefits from some fresh air and it is a really nice way to socialise away from the unit."

Haemodialysis Team make final of 2015 Best in Care Awards

The Haemodialysis team at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham have reached the final of the Trust's Best in Care Awards.

The annual awards aim to recognise the achievements of those who go above and beyond to deliver the best in care to patients and relatives.

The team's nomination highlights the work of the project team who planned the opening of the five new dialysis units and the clinical team who continued to provide the best performing haemodialysis service in the UK whilst changes to the satellite services took place.

Dr Day said: "We are delighted to have been nominated and were humbled to learn we have made it to the finals.

"Everyone involved should feel very proud."

>> CONTACT US

If you have any questions or queries regarding dialysis services, please get in touch.

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WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

You can also join Smethwick Dialysis Centre's Facebook page to receive regular messages and keep in touch with other patients. To be part of this online community, simply 'like' Assure Dialysis Services: [facebook.com/assuredialysis](https://www.facebook.com/assuredialysis)