

GP NEWS

.....keeping you in touch with Ashford & St. Peter's

Department of Urology - An update from us to you

The Ashford & St Peter's Hospital Urology department is continuously growing and improving its services. The department, led by Mr Kulkarni (pictured left) provides a comprehensive service for elective, urgent and emergency patients covering simple to complex urology treatment and surgery. The department is now a Regional Pelvic Cancer Centre and receives local, national and international referrals. The department consists of four Consultant Urologists (including Mr Ravi Kulkarni, Mr Bill Dunsmuir, Mr Robin Cole and Mr Krishna Patil), one Associate Specialist as well as two Specialist Registrars and a selection of Junior Doctor trainees and Nurse Practitioners.

All Consultants undertake Core Urology, as well as individual speciality interests including Bladder Cancer, stents, stones, robotics and Laparoscopic Urology. Patient clinics are held across both sites and include specialist appointments with dedicated clinics in areas such as Haematuria, Stone Clinic and Pelvic Cancer in addition to Two Week Rule Clinics for suspected cancers and Urodynamics. Referrals can be made using Choose and Book, fax, email or on hard copy via the Trust Appointment Centre.

Much work is currently underway within the department to reduce waiting times for both clinic appointments and surgery. This is being achieved via consistent improvements in communications and administration and the encouragement of Outreach Services and Primary Care involvement. The Urology Department prides itself on providing a good quality service with a team that is focused on maintaining our high standards and truly making a difference to the lives of those we treat.



Mr Ravi Kulkarni
Consultant Urological
Surgeon & Lead Clinician
in Urology



Mr Robin Cole
General Urology Surgeon



Mr Bill Dunsmuir
General Urology and
Laparoscopic Surgeon



Mr Krishna Patil
General Urology Surgeon

Audiology Walk-in Clinic to change

As you know, there has previously been an Audiology Walk-in Clinic (for Hearing Aid repairs and adjustment) at Ashford on a Thursday as well as at St Peter's on a Tuesday and Friday. These clinics are still in place and are now known as the "Repair by Appointment Service" and all attendances now require formalised Appointment Bookings to be made by the patient the day before using the dedicated appointment line on 01784 884126. These changes are with immediate effect and are a necessity in order to meet demand and sustain our high standards within this service.

Fax Numbers to change—but a new list is on its way!

GP News has been informed that there are to be some changes to the Fax Numbers in the following departments **with effect from Wednesday 6th of August:**

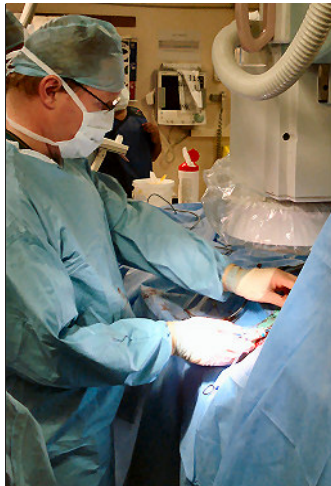
Radiology Dept. St Peter's: was 01932 875395 is now **01932 722693**
Orthopaedic Dept St Peter's: was 01932 872015 is now **01932 722689**
Cardiology Dept St Peter's: was 01932 872011 is now **01932 723395**

These numbers will be changed on the electronic GP Service Directory and will be altered for the next print run early next year. In the meantime, a 'Fax Page' insert is currently under construction for you to stick on the inside front cover of your GP Service Directories to give you an alphabetical list by speciality of all mainline secure fax numbers as a quick reference guide. It is intended that this will be forwarded to all practices in August.

Radiology require a clear picture to provide a clear picture

Historically, when requesting a routine X-Ray, patients have been given a completed radiology form by their GP and are asked to contact the Radiology Department by telephone to arrange an appointment. In order to meet demand and maintain the high standards expected from us as a Trust, the Radiology Department now need to see the referral form prior to contact being made with patients to arrange an appointment.

A few months ago, Ashford & St Peter's Hospital released a new 'Radiology Request Form' to all GP Practices and referring bodies. All users of the form are now asked to send the form to the Radiology Department directly to allow the necessary processes to take place and for the referral to be entered onto our systems before we make contact with the patient to arrange an appointment for them. If the forms are not provided early in this way the patient can experience a delay in their pathway. The team would like to thank you in advance for your support.



Dr Vince Paul in surgery

Trust Cardiology Consultant follows his heart

Dr Vince Paul, Consultant Cardiologist, has recently stepped down from his position here at the Trust and has emigrated with his family to Perth, Australia. Vince joined the Trust seven years ago having previously been a consultant at Harefield Hospital.

He brought to the Trust particular expertise in complex electrophysiological techniques designed to investigate and correct changes in heart rhythm and under his guidance the department started to use implantable defibrillators as well as biventricular pacemakers which are designed to improve the function of the failing heart.

In addition to these techniques he was also skilled at coronary angioplasty and was part of the primary angioplasty rota at St George's Hospital which uses angioplasty to open up the blocked coronary artery which is causing the heart attack.

The Cardiology Consultant Team are pleased to be able to inform you that Electrophysiological Tests will continue as usual and they have taken over Vince's patients and referrals with the help of a locum until a new Consultant appointment is made.

Urgent Referrals on Choose and Book:

The Trust would like to remind all GPs that both Urgent and Routine appointments are available via CAB and that these are available in most specialties. Setting the "priority" field in CAB to either 'urgent' or 'routine' will influence the slots that can be offered to the patient. Last month over 50% of referrals were received at the Trust via CAB, making this our preferred referral option!

Consultant Appointments at Ashford & St Peter's



After a few months working with the Trust as a Locum, Mr Jonathan Trickett now joins the Trust permanently as a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon specialising in Colorectal and Laparoscopic Surgery. Jonathan joins the team from his previous post at Frimley Park Hospital and has previously worked in Australia for a year in Adelaide's Teaching Hospital and brings a vast amount of expertise including previous research in Colorectal Genetics.



Dr Devanna Rajeswari has been appointed to the post of Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. Devanna previously worked for the Trust as a Specialist Registrar and has now been appointed to join the Consultant Team.



Dr Melissa Barkham joined the Trust on 2nd June 2008, as a full time Consultant Dermatologist. Melissa joins our team having worked previously at City Hospital in Birmingham. Originally from Scotland, Melissa completed her undergraduate training in Glasgow and finished her specialist training in Birmingham. Melissa's specialist interests include atopic eczema and paediatric dermatology as well as the provision of appointments provided at a weekly pigmented lesion clinic.

Bariatric Surgery and Obesity Management comes to Ashford & St Peter's

In April 2008, Ashford & St Peter's Hospital, Frimley Park Hospital and St George's Hospital joined forces in a bid to create a Bariatric Surgery and Obesity Management Network, known as "The South Thames Bariatric Service".

With effect from August, patients will be triaged by a Multi-Disciplinary Team at St George's and Ashford & St Peter's. Those patients who live geographically closer or identified as needing Gastric Banding will be treated at Ashford & St Peter's with those requiring full Gastric Bypass to undertake surgery at St George's.

A 24 hour on-call service will be provided by the network's Consultant Surgeons. The Ashford & St Peter's arm of the network involves the skills and services of Mr Joe Horner, Mr Elliot Chisholm, Mr Neville Menezes, Dr Saf Naqvi and Dr Mike Baxter with further MDT input from departments Including Dietetics and Psychology.

Telephone Numbers causing headache for local residents: Thank you from ASPH

Throughout July the Trust has received a greatly reduced number of complaints from our local community (in fact only one!) regarding the miss-dialling of local telephone numbers. Thank you so much for your help regarding this matter which was raised in the last edition of the GP News. In such a short space of time the matter has been almost completely resolved thanks to your ongoing cooperation and support.

As a further reminder, If you only have an extension number and you are calling from outside of the Trust, please be aware that the Trust phone number system guide is as follows:

For St Peter's site communications, dial the 01932 code followed by 72 and then the four digit extension # # # #

For Ashford site communications, dial the 01784 code followed by 88 and then the four digit extension # # # #

The main switchboard that deals with calls for both sites is 01932 872000 - and this is the only number with 87 at the start of the main number.