

Redesignation of the Urgent care centres on the Horton General Hospital (HGH) and John Radcliffe (JR) hospital sites.

Background

The Urgent Care Centres were set up a few years ago on both the JR and HGH to support the redirection of mobile patients who did not require to be seen in an Emergency Department. Many of these people are those with minor illness who need to be assessed by a clinician.

The two units were called Urgent Care Centres, this was based on the procurement rules at that time. If we had called them Urgent Treatment Centres we would have had to go out to tender and we had local Primary care units willing to run them. This matters, as both units take referrals from local GP practices who are struggling with on the day demand. Both units have been extremely successful at supporting the on the day demand for North and City of Oxford. South Oxfordshire has minor injury units and frailty units call EMU's.

Present situation

The two Urgent Care centres in Oxfordshire have been assessed for redesignation as Urgent Treatment Centres so their activity can be reported in the Oxfordshire 4hr standard. This is the process around the country and Oxfordshire is one of the last places to comply with this. This is designation only, it does not change the name of the units, their location, the types of patients that they see or their activity. The redesignation to an urgent treatment centre means that they can report their activity in the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 4 hour standard.

The regional and National NHS England team have requested that the HOSC chair is made aware of this, to comply with full transparency.