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How do I become a member?

Public membership is open to everyone 12 years and over who lives in England.

Joining is quick and simple . just [click here](#) and complete the online form.

Alternatively, we can send you a paper application form by post. Please email rde-tr.royaldevonmembers@nhs.net to request a form.



Update from John Palmer, our Chief Operating Officer

We are really grateful to our staff and everyone who has helped us to get patients back home.

Our acute hospitals, North Devon District Hospital (NDDH) and the Royal Devon and Exeter (RD&E) Wonford, saw a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 positive patients in March, far outweighing the numbers seen at the peak of previous COVID-19 waves.

Half to two-thirds of our bed base at both NDDH and the RD&E Wonford were occupied as a result of COVID-19. Amongst many other challenges, this made recovering our elective services really difficult.



The data and modelling suggest we are now past the latest peak, and we are pleased to see that our position has started to improve, with COVID-19 inpatient numbers, COVID-related staffing absence and care home outbreaks across our Eastern and Northern Devon areas continuing to fall.

We are really very grateful to all of our staff who continue to work tirelessly, doing all they can for our patients, local communities and each other.

home. Each patient has a discharge plan created just for them and their situation, which often changes and often requires input from multiple staff across different organisations, including the voluntary sector. And of course, carers, family and friends play an absolutely vital role. Thank you to you all.

How we are using discharges lounges to support patient flow

On the RD&E Wonford site, we have created a discharge lounge which facilitates the earlier discharge of up to 30 patients every day. When services at NDDH have been under significant pressure, we have set up a temporary discharge lounge.

Our discharge lounges are staffed by registered nurses and healthcare assistants. These staff help to make final discharge arrangements for patients who are ready to leave hospital. This can include finalising discharge summaries, checking that patients receive their medication, ordering transport and contacting the patient's family, friends or carer.

Every patient who uses our discharge lounge helps another through releasing vital bed space. This improves patient flow significantly and helps more patients to receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

If you have a family member, friend or neighbour who is ready to leave hospital, there are a number of things you can do to support them returning home. This includes helping to organise transport, providing suitable clothing and shoes for them to wear when leaving hospital, and popping some milk and

“This surgery will change my life”

Over 15,000 people from across Devon have now accessed facilities at the Nightingale. This includes over 100 knee and hip replacements which have been carried out by the South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre (SWAOC).

Paul, from Fremington in North Devon, was the first patient to have a hip replacement at the Nightingale.

“This surgery will change my life . I am 71 years old, and thanks to my hip

testing services have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and despite our very best efforts, our waiting lists have grown. We are delighted to have this dedicated

Embracing the future

Less than 60 days until we rollout our new Electronic Patient Record in Northern Devon!

MY CARE Northern Devon is our clinically-led transformation programme, which will see the launch of a new Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system called Epic across our Northern services. We are planning to go-live on Saturday 9 July 2022.

Our Eastern services went live with Epic in October 2020. Once Epic is in use across our Northern services too, we will have one shared patient record system across the whole Trust.

This presents us with a lot of opportunity to improve how we deliver care for our patients. Staff will no longer have to track down and access patient information using lots of separate computer and paper-based systems. Our electronic system means all the information will be in one place.

Improving the visibility of information between our teams will help improve safety and quality through supporting them to work together and make decisions. This will lead to better outcomes for patients.

Update from Jill Canning, Operational Director for MY CARE Northern Devon

As we roll out our Electronic Patient Record in our Northern services, our focus is on training those staff. Our staff are really engaged in this, and we have also recruited over 600 Super Users, who will provide extra support for their colleagues whilst going through this change.

We are taking steps to provide our staff with the time to get used to working with the new system, ensuring we continue to provide a safe service to our patients and population during go-live.

New £1.25m eye care hub for South Molton Community Hospital

Feel comfortable, or have a caregiver who is comfortable, using an application on a smartphone

If you or someone you know is interested, additional eligibility criteria will be assessed by the research team. If you are interested, please contact the site at:

Email: rde-tr.prcexeter@nhs.net Telephone: 01392 406289

The commitment for this study is approximately three years.

Follow the Trust on social media

Are you following the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on social media?

To reflect our new integrated Trust, on 1 April 2022 we merged our social media accounts.

Follow our Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages for all our latest updates!

Would you like to receive this news direct to your inbox? [Click here](#)